RELATION

Of the Late

Wicked Contrivance

Of *STEPHEN BLACKHEAD* and *ROBERT YOUNG*, againſt the Lives of ſeveral Perſons, by Forging an *Aſſociation* under their Hands.

Written by the Biſhop of *Rocheſter*.

In Two Parts:

The Firſt Part being a Relation of what pa[ſſed] at the Three Examinations of the ſ[aid] by a Committee of Lords of the P[rivy] [Council]

The Second being an ACCOUNT of the [Life] above-mentioned Authors of the Forg[ery]

THE SECOND EDITION.

In the SAVOY,
Printed by EDWARD [illegible]

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Of the Late

Wicked Contribuance

OF STEPHEN BLACKHEAD and ROBERT YOUNG, against the Lives of several Persons, by Forging an *Association* under their Hands.

Written by the Bishop of *Rochester*.

In Two Parts:

The First Part being a Relation of what passed at the Three Examinations of the said Bishop by a Committee of Lords of the *Privy Council*.

The Second being an ACCOUNT of the Two above-mentioned Authors of the Forgery.

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A RELATION of the late Wicked Contrivance of *Stephen Blackhead* and *Robert Young* againſt the Lives of ſeveral Perſons, by Forging an Aſſociation under their Hands, *&c.*

I Think it becomes me, as a Duty which I owe to my Country, and to the Character I have the undeſerved Honor to bear in the Church, to give the World ſome Account, how my Innocency was clear'd from the late Wicked Contrivance againſt me: In hopes that this Example of a falſe Plot ſo manifeſtly detected, may be, in ſome ſort, beneficial to the whole

Nation on the like Occaſions for the future: However, that the Enemies of the Church may have no Reaſon to caſt any Blemiſh upon it, from the leaſt Suſpicion of my Guilt: And that this faithful Memorial may remain as a poor Monument of my own Gratitude to Almighty GOD, to whoſe immediate Protection I cannot but attribute this extraordinary Preſervation.

Perhaps my Reader, at firſt view, will look on this Relation, as too much loaded with ſmall Particularities; ſuch as he may judge ſcarce worth my remembring, or his knowing: But he will pardon me, if I preſume that nothing in this whole Affair ought to appear little, or inconſiderable, to me at leaſt, who was ſo nearly concern'd in the event of it.

I have therefore made no ſcruple to diſcharge my weak Memory of all it could retain of this Matter; Nor have I willingly omitted any Thing, though never ſo minute, which, I thought, might ſerve to fix this wonderful Mercy of GOD the more on my own Mind; or did any way conduce to the ſaving of divers other innocent Perſons Lives, as well as mine.

I cannot indeed Promiſe, that I ſhall accurately repeat every Word or Expreſſion, that fell from

from all the Parties here mentioned: Or that I ſhall put all down in the very ſame Order, as it was ſpoken, having not had the Opportunity to take Notes of every thing as it paſs'd. But this I will ſay; if I ſhall not be able to relate all the Truth, yet I will omit nothing that is Material: I will as carefully as if I were upon my Oath, give in all the Truth I can remember, and nothing but the Truth.

What I Write I intend ſhall conſiſt of Two Parts: The Firſt, To be a Narrative of the plain Matter of Fact from my firſt being taken into Cuſtody, *May* the 7th, to the time of my laſt Diſmiſſion *June* the 13th. The Second, To contain ſome Account of the Two Perjur'd Wretches that were pleas'd, for what Reaſons they know beſt, to bring me into this Danger.

For the Truth of the Subſtance of what I ſhall recollect on the firſt Head, I am bold to appeal to the Memories of thoſe Honourable *LORDS* of the *Council*, by whom I was thrice Examin'd. And touching the ſecond, I have by me ſo many Original Papers, or Copies of unqueſtionable Authority, (which I am ready to ſhew any VVorthy Perſons, who ſhall deſire the Satisfaction) as are abundantly ſufficient to juſtifie all

that

that I ſhall think fit for me to ſay againſt *Blackhead*, and *Young*; eſpecially againſt *Young*.

It was on *Saturday* the ſeventh of *May* of this preſent Year 1692. in the Evening, as I was walking in the Orchard at *Bromeley*, Meditating on ſomething I deſign'd to Preach the next Day; that I ſaw a Coach and four Horſes ſtop at the outer Gate, out of which two Perſons alighted. Immediately I went towards them, believing they were ſome of my Friends, coming to give me a Viſit. By that time I was got to the Gate, they were enter'd into the Hall: But ſeeing me haſtning to them, they turn'd, and met me about the middle of the Court. The Chief of them perceiving me to look wiſtly on them, as being altogether Strangers to me, ſaid, *My Lord, Perhaps you do not know me. My Name is* Dyve, *I am Clerk of the Council, and here is one of the King's Meſſengers. I am ſorry I am ſent on this Errand. But I am come to Arreſt you upon ſuſpicion of High Treaſon.*

Sir, ſaid I, I ſuppoſe you have a Warrant for ſo doing; I pray let me ſee it. He ſhew'd it me. I read it; and the firſt Name I lighted on being

being the Earl of *Nottingham*'s; I ſaid, Sir, I believe this is my Lord *Nottingham*'s own Hand, and I ſubmit. What are your Orders how to diſpoſe of me? *My Lord*, ſaid he, *I muſt firſt ſearch your Perſon, and demand the Keys you have about you.* My Keys I preſently gave him. He ſearch'd my Pockets; and found no Papers, but ſome poor Notes of a Sermon, and a Letter from Mr. *B. Fairfax* about ordinary Buſineſs.

Now, ſays he, *My Lord, I muſt require to ſee the Rooms to which theſe Keys belong, and all the Places in the Houſe, where you have any Papers or Books.* I ſtraight conducted him up Stairs into my Study. This, Sir, ſaid I, is the only Chamber where I keep all the Books and Papers I have in the Houſe. They began to Search, and with great readineſs turn'd over every thing in the Room, and Cloſets, and Preſſes, ſhaking every Book by the Cover, opening every part of a Cheſt of Drawers, where were many Papers, particularly ſome Bundles of Sermons; which, I told them were my proper Tools; And that all that knew me, could Vouch for me, it was not my Cuſtom to have any Treaſon in

 them.

them. They read ſeveral of the Texts, and left them where they found them. But in one corner of a Preſs, which was half open, they met with a great number of Letters fil'd up. I aſſur'd them they were only Matters of uſual Friendly Correſpondence, and moſt of them were of laſt Years date. Mr. *Dyve* looking on ſome of them, found them to be ſo; and ſaid, *If he had time to view them all, he might, perhaps, ſee reaſon to leave them behind; But being expreſly Commanded to bring all Letters, he muſt carry them with him.* I left him to do as he pleaſed; ſo they ſeal'd them up.

Then they went into my Bedchamber, and the Cloſets adjoining, doing as they had done in my Study, feeling about the Bed and Hangings, and knocking the Wainſcot in ſeveral places, to ſee if there were any private Hole, or Secret Conveyance.

After that they came down Stairs, and ſearch'd the Parlour and Drawing-Room on that ſide of the Houſe with the like exactneſs. In all theſe Rooms I obſerved they very carefully pryed into every part of the Chimneys; the Meſſenger putting his Hand into

into every Flower-Pot: Which I then ſomewhat ſmiled at: But ſince I found he had but too much Reaſon ſo to do.

When they had done ſearching in all thoſe Rooms, and in the Hall as they were going out, and had taken with them what Papers they thought fit; they carryed Me away in the Coach that brought them. By the Way we met my Servant Mr. *Moor* coming from *London*. I call'd out to him, Have you any Letters for Me? He gave me three or four, which I deliver'd to Mr. *Dyve* to open: Who found nothing in them, but Matters of private Concernment, or ordinary News. And ſo, between Ten and Eleven at Night, we arrived at *Whitehal*, and I was brought to my Lord *Nottingham*, whom I found alone in his Office.

My Lord, ſaid I, I am come upon your Warrant; but certainly there muſt be ſome great Miſtake, or black Villany in this Buſineſs. For I declare, as in the Preſence of God, I am abſolutely free from any juſt Accuſation relating to the Government. His Lordſhip told me, *He himſelf was much ſurprized when he heard my Name mentioned.*

I intreated him I might be Examined that Night, if any Witneſſes could be produced againſt me. He ſaid, *That could not poſſibly be, becauſe the Lords, who had the Management of ſuch Affairs, were ſeparated, and gone Home: But that I was to appear before them the next Day; and in the mean time, all the Civility ſhould be ſhewn me, that could be expected by a Man in my Condition.*

My Lord, ſaid I, I hope, it being ſo very late, you will ſuffer me to lie at my own Houſe at *Weſtminſter.* He reply'd, *You ſhall do ſo; But you muſt have a Guard of Soldiers and a Meſſenger with you.* A Guard of Soldiers ſaid I, My Lord, methinks is not ſo neceſſary to ſecure one of my Profeſſion; I ſhould rather offer, that I may have two or more Meſſengers to keep me, tho' that may put me to greater Charges. *My Lord,* ſaid he, *I, for my own part, would be glad, if I might take your Parole; Bnt I muſt do what I may anſwer to others; and therefore I pray be Content.*

At this I acquieſced; only adding, My Lord, here are divers Papers brought up with

with me, which, upon my Credit, are but of common Importance; yet, becauſe they are moſt of them private Talk among Friends; there may be ſome Expreſſions, which no Man, if it were his own Caſe, would be willing to have divulg'd; and therefore I deſire your Lordſhip will take Care they may not be ſhewn to the Prejudice of any. He anſwer'd, *You have to do with Men of Honour: And you ſhall have no Occaſion to complain upon that Account.*

And ſo I was convey'd Home to *Weſtminſter* by Mr. *Dyve*, and Mr. *Knight* the Meſſenger, in the Coach with Me, and a Guard attending on each ſide. After we came to the Deanery, Mr. *Dyve* having diligently ſurveyed my Lodgings, and the Avenues to them, left Me about Midnight, with a ſtrict Charge to the Meſſenger and Soldiers, not to give me any unneceſſary Diſturbance; but to watch carefully at my Bed-Chamber-Door till further Orders, which they did.

The next Day, being *Sunday*, *May* the 8th, Mr. *Dyve* came again to me about Noon, to acquaint me, That I was to attend the Committee of the Council that Evening by

Six

Six o'the Clock. *And*, says he, *My Lord, I suppose you have here also at* Westminster *a Room where you keep the rest of your Books and Papers.* I told him, I had. *Then*, said he, *I have Commission to search there likewise; particularly in your Cabinet.* I shewed him my Library, and gave him the Keys. He opened all the Presses of Books, and viewed particularly every Shelf, and examined every Drawer in the Cabinet: But finding nothing there of a late date, or that might afford any the least shadow of a Trayterous Correspondence, he went away without removing any one Paper thence.

At the time appointed I was brought by the Messenger and Guard to *Whitehal*, where a select Number of the Lords of the Council were assembled at my Lord *Nottingham*'s Lodgings. There were present, as I remember, the Earl of *Devonshire* Lord Steward, the Earl of *Dorset* Lord Chamberlain, the Earl of *Nottingham* Secretary of State, the Earl of *Rochester*, the Earl of *Portland*, the Lord *Sydney* Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*, and Sir *Edward Seymor*.

When

When I was enter'd the Room, and come to the end of the Table, my Lord *Nottingham* began. But now, for the greater perſpicuity of the whole Proceedings, and to avoid the too frequent repetition of, *ſaid I*, or *ſaid ſuch an one*, or *ſaid they*, I will henceforth give all the Queſtions and Anſwers, and the reſt of the Diſcourſes, in the Name of every Perſon, as they ſpoke, and by way of Dialogue.

Earl of *Nottingham*. *My Lord, You cannot but think it muſt be ſome extraordinary Occaſion, which has forc'd us to ſend for you hither in this manner.*

Biſhop of Rocheſter. My Lord, I ſubmit to the Neceſſities of State, in ſuch a Time of Jealouſie, and Danger, as this is.

Earl of *N.* *My Lord, I am to ask you ſome Queſtions, to which we deſire your plain and true Anſwers.*

Biſhop of R. My Lords, I aſſure you mine ſhall be ſuch; as, I hope, I have been always taken for a Man of Simplicity and Sincerity.

Earl

Earl of *N.* *Have you Compoſed a Declaration for the preſent intended Deſcent of the late King* James *into* England?

Biſhop of R. I call GOD to Witneſs, I have not.

Earl of *N.* *Did you ever draw up any Heads, or Materials for ſuch a Declaration?*

Biſhop of R. Upon the ſame Solemn Aſſeveration, I never did.

Earl of *N.* *Were you ever ſolicited, or apply'd to by any Perſon, for the Undertaking ſuch a Work?*

Biſhop of R. I never was.

Earl of *N.* *Do you hold any Correſpondencies abroad in* France?

Biſhop of R. I do not hold any.

Earl of *N.* *Have you ever ſign'd any Aſſociation for Reſtoring the late King* James.?

Biſhop of R. I never ſign'd any.

Earl of *N.* *Do you know of any ſuch Aſſociation? Or any Perſons that have ſubſcribed one?*

Biſhop of R. Upon the Word of a Chriſtian, and a Biſhop, I know of no ſuch thing; nor of any Perſon, who has ſubſcribed any Paper of that Nature.

Sir

Sir Edward Seymour. *My Lord Biſhop of* Rocheſter, *We have examined the Papers that were ſeized in your Cloſet at* Bromley. *We find nothing in them, but Matters of ordinary and innocent Converſation among Friends; only we have one Scruple, That there are few or no Letters among them witten ſince* Lady-day *laſt.*

Biſhop of R. Sir, I ſuppoſe there may be ſome of a Date ſince that Time in the Bundles. If I had preſerv'd more, they would have been of the ſame Nature with the reſt that you have, that is, concerning common Intelligence, and the Talk of the Town; not any Secrets of State, or againſt the Government. My Lords, I hold no Correſpondencies of that kind. When I am in the Country, I deſire ſome Friend or other here to let me know how the World goes, that I may inform my ſelf, and the Neighbouring Gentlemen, of the Truth of Things, and prevent the ſpreading of falſe News: And afterwards I file up ſuch Letters according to their Dates, (as you may perceive I did theſe,) that at any time I may have a preſent Recourſe to them to refreſh my Memory in any paſt Tranſaction.

My Lords, Thoſe are all I thought worth keeping of this kind theſe two laſt Years. And I hope the Clerk of the Council has done me the Juſtice to acquaint your Lordſhips, how I was apprehended, out of my Houſe; and how narrowly I my ſelf, and my Study, and Lodging-Chamber, and other Rooms, were ſearch'd: So that it was impoſſible for me to have ſuppreſs'd or ſmother'd any one Writing from you. And really I believe there was not a Note, or leaſt Scrip of Paper of any Conſequence in my Poſſeſſion, but they had a view of it.

Earl of *Devonſhire*. *But, my Lord, it is probable a Man of your Intereſt, and Acquaintance, muſt have received more Letters ſince, than are here to be found. We ſee here are many concerning Affairs that paſs'd juſt before that time.*

Biſhop of R. My Lords, A little before the Concluſion of the laſt Seſſion of Parliament, I obtain'd Leave of the Houſe of Lords to retire into the Country, for the Recovery of my Health. During my abode there, as long as the Parliament continued, I was ſomewhat curious to learn what paſs'd in both

both Houſes, and therefore, as your Lordſhip has obſerv'd, Letters came thicker to me about that time. But when the Parliament was up, very little hapning that was remarkable in that interval, I was not ſo mindful to preſerve the Letters that came to me, whilſt all Things, both abroad and at home, were rather in Preparation than Action.

Beſides that, ſince the Time your Lordſhips ſpeak of, I was twice or thrice in Town for ſeveral days together; once eſpecially, upon a publick Occaſion, the Annual Election of *Weſtminſter* School; which detain'd me here about a Week. And theſe are the True Reaſons why you find ſo few Letters to me ſince the Date of Time your Lordſhips have mentioned.

Earl of *N. Will it pleaſe your Lordſhips to ask the Biſhop of* Rocheſter *any more Queſtions?*

They being all ſilent, I ſaid, My Lords, I cannot imagine how it comes to paſs that I ſhould be thus ſuſpected to be guilty of any Contrivance againſt the Government; I think I may appeal to all that know me, I am ſure I may to all my Neighbours in

the Country where I live, that there has no Man ſubmitted to it more peaceably and quietly than I have done ever ſince the Revolution; and I muſt own, I did it both upon a a Principle of Conſcience and Gratitude. Of Conſcience, Becauſe I cannot ſee how the *Church of England* and the *whole Proteſtant Religion* can be preſerv'd but upon this Conſtitution; ſince an Invaſion from *France* cannot but be deſtructive to Both. And of Gratitude, Becauſe, as you all know, I happen'd to be, in the late Reign, engag'd in an Affair, which ſince I have been taught was Illegal. And though, I may ſay, I ſtopp'd betimes, and did no great hurt, but hindred, as much as I could, whil'ſt I Acted; yet I Acted ſo long, that I might have expected to be ſeverely puniſh'd for what I did. But the King's and Queen's Part, in the General Pardon, was ſo Gracious and Benign, in making it their own Act, and not excluding me out of it, that Their Majeſties have thereby laid upon me an Obligation never to be forgotten.

Upon this I was bid to withdraw; and about an Hour after, the ſame Clerk of the

Council was ſent out to tell me, *The Lords had Order'd I ſhould return to my own Houſe, and be under the ſame Confinement as before, of a Meſſenger, and a Guard of Soldiers: And there I ſhould ſhortly hear what their Lordſhips would determine concerning me.* He likewiſe told the Meſſenger, and the Guards, *That he had a ſtrict Command to them to uſe me, with all Reſpect; only to take Care, that I ſhould be ſafely kept, and forth-coming.* Nor indeed had I any thing to object againſt their Behaviour: For, as Mr. *Dyve* demean'd himſelf always to me like a Gentleman, and the Meſſenger was very Civil, ſo the Soldiers themſelves were as eaſie and quiet to the reſt of my Family, as if they had been a part of it.

The ſame Evening Mr. *Dyve* came home to me, and brought me all my Papers, telling me, *That the Lords had heard him read them over; and, having no Exception againſt them, had ſent him to return them all ſafe to me again.*

Thus guarded, I continued from that Day, till the 18th of *May*, under the Cuſtody of a Meſſenger and of four Centinels, who

who watched Day and Night, and were relieved every Eight and forty Hours.

But then, having heard nothing in the mean time from the Lords, I wrote this Letter to the Earl of *Nottingham*.

My Lord,

AS I have all this while, according to my Duty to their Majesties Government, with Patience and Humility, submitted to my Confinement under a Guard of Soldiers, and a Messenger; so now, fearing that my longer Silence may be interpreted as a Mistrust of my Innocency, I think it becomes me to make this Application to your Lordship, earnestly intreating you to represent my Condition and Request to the most Honourable Board, where I was examined. I entirely rely on their Justice and Honor, that, if they find nothing real against me (as God knows, I am conscious to my self they cannot) they would be pleased to order my Enlargement. I am forced to be the more importunate with your Lordship in this Business, because it is very well known, in what a dan-

a dangerous Condition of Health I went out of Town towards the latter end of the Seſſion of Parliament: And I find my Diſtemper very much increaſed by this cloſe Reſtraint, in a time when I was juſt entring upon a Courſe of Phyſick in the Country.

My Lord,

I am Your Lordſhip's moſt Humble,

and moſt Obedient Servant,

May 18. *Weſtm.* Tho. Roſſen.

To the Right Honorable, the Earl of *Nottingham*, Principal Secretary of State.

This Letter was read in the Cabinet-Council that Day, and it had the Deſired Effect; for thereupon I was ordered to be diſcharged that Evening; which accordingly was done

done about ten at Night, by Mr. *Shorter*, a Meſſenger of the Chamber, coming to my Houſe, and diſmiſſing the Meſſenger, and taking off the Guard.

The next Morning, being *May* 19th, to prevent any Concourſe or Congratulations, uſual upon ſuch Occaſions, I retired early to *Bromley*, where I remained quiet till *June* the 9th, little dreaming of a worſe Miſchief ſtill hanging over my Head.

But that Day, being *Thurſday*, as I was upon the Road, coming to *Weſtminſter*, to the Meeting of Dr. *Busby*'s Preachers, who aſſemble once a Term at my Houſe there, I was ſtopt by a Gentleman that brought me this Letter from my Lord *Nottingham*.

White-

White-Hall, June 8. 92.

My Lord,

I *Muſt deſire your Lordſhip to be at my Office on* Friday *Morning by Ten of the Clock.*

I am Your Lordſhips

Moſt Humble Servant,

Nottingham.

For the Right Reverend, the Lord Biſhop of Rocheſter, *at* Bromley.

I asked the Bearer, whether he had any farther Orders concerning me. He anſwered, *No: But was forthwith to return.* I deſired him to acquaint his Lord, that I was now going to Town upon other Buſineſs, but that I would preſently wait on him at *White-Hall.* Accordingly from *Lambeth* I went to his Office. When my Lord came to me, I told him, that having met with his Lord-

ſhip's Letter accidentally in my Way to *Weſtminſter*, I thought it beſt to come preſently to know his Pleaſure.

Earl of *N.* *My Lord, There is a Miſtake, I gave you Notice to be here to morrow Morning: And that is the Time you are appointed to appear before the Committee of the Council.*

Biſhop of R. However, My Lord, being in Town occaſionally, I thought it became me to preſent my ſelf to you as ſoon as I could. And I now make it my Requeſt, If your Lordſhips have any thing farther to ſay to me, I may be convened before you this Day.

Earl of *N.* *I fear you cannot be ſo, for there is much Buſineſs to be this Afternoon, both at the great Council, and the Committee: But I will ſend you Word to the Deanery, if you can be called this Evening. In the mean time you have your full Liberty to go where you pleaſe.*

Thus I went home; but having no Notice from my Lord that Night, the next Day, being *June* the 10th, about Ten of the Clock, I came to his Lordſhip's Office; where were met

met the ſame Lords as before; only, I think, the Earl of *Portland* was not there, and the Earl of *Pembroke*, Lord Privy Seal, was.

When I was call'd in, beſides the Privy Councillors that ſat about the Table, there was ſtanding againſt the Wall a very ill-favour'd Man, who afterwards prov'd to be *Blackhead*; with whom I ſtrait perceiv'd I was ſent for to be confronted.

For, as ſoon as I was in the Room, my Lord *Nottingham* ſaid, *My Lord, Do you know that Perſon?*

Biſhop of R. My Lord, I have ſeen this Man's Face, but I cannot immediately recollect where.

Earl of *N. I pray view him well. Has he never brought you any Letters from one Mr.* Young?

Biſhop of R. I do call to mind, he has brought me a Letter. I cannot in a moment remember from whom it was.

Earl of *N. He ſays it was from one* Young.

Biſhop of R. I think it was at my Houſe at *Bromley*, that he delivered it me; but I ve-

rily believe, it was not from any of the Name of *Young*.

Blackhead. I was with the Biſhop of Rocheſter *at* Bromley : *I brought him a Letter from Mr.* Young, *and I received an Anſwer to Mr.* Young *back again from the Biſhop.*

Thus far, during the beginning of this Examination, I ſtood with my Face againſt the Window, and my Eyes being ſo very tender and feeble as they are, I had not a perfect View of *Blackhead*; but he ſo confidently affirming, That he had of late carried Letters between me and one *Young*, I changed my Station, and got the Light on my Back; and then immediately, having a true Sight of his very remarkable Countenance and Habit, and whole Perſon, and being alſo much aſſiſted by his Voice, which is very loud and rude; I did (by Gods Bleſſing) perfectly call him to mind; and ſaid, Now, my Lords, by the Advantage of this Light, I do exactly remember this Fellow, and part of his Buſineſs with me at *Bromley*. What he ſays of *Young* cannot be true. I know not for what purpoſe he affirms this; but upon my Re-

puta-

putation, it is utterly falſe, that he ever brought me a Letter from one *Young*.

Earl of *N.* *My Lord, He ſays particularly, it was upon a Faſt-day.*

Biſhop of R. My Lords, I do remember this Fellow was with me at *Bromley* on a Faſt-Day: By the ſame Token, I told him, he ſhould ſtay till after Evening-Prayers, and muſt expect only a faſting kind of Meal. But then I would return an Anſwer to his Buſineſs.

Blackhead. *It was upon a Faſt-day. I did eat with the Biſhop's Servants; and I received an Anſwer from his own Hand, to the Letter I brought him from Mr.* Young.

Biſhop of R. My Lords, This that he ſays of *Young*, is a wicked Lye: All my Correſpondencies are ſo innocent (as I hope your Lordſhips can teſtifie) that, if I had received a Letter from any Mr. *Young*, I ſhould have no reaſon ſo poſitively to deny it. I beſeech you, examine this Fellow throughly, and I doubt not but you will diſcover ſome impudent Knavery. I ſtand to it; I am ſure there is no Perſon whoſe Name is *Young*, with whom I have of late years maintained any Intercourſe by Letters.

Earl

Earl of *Devonſhire*. *My Lord, Is there no Perſon of the Name of* Young, *a Clergy-man, with whom you are acquainted?*

Biſhop of R. Oh! My Lord, There are two excellent Perſons of the Name of *Young*, both Clergy-men, to whom I have the good Fortune to be very well known: The one was your Brother *Offery*'s Chaplain, and is now Prebendary of *Wincheſter*; the other was Canon of *Windſor*, when I was a Member of that Church, and is there ſtill. But I ſuppoſe, neither of theſe are the *Youngs*, whoſe Correſpondence this Man objects to me. I ſhould take it for an Honor to Correſpond with them. But in Truth it has ſo happen'd, that I have neither written too, nor receiv'd one Letter from either of them theſe many Years, to the beſt of my Knowledge.

Blackhead. *The Biſhop, if he pleaſe, may remember it was* Robert Young, *from whom I brought him a Letter.*

Earl of *N*. *How long ago ſay you, it was?*

Blackhead. *It was about two Months ago?*

Biſhop of R. I have indeed, my Lords, ſome obſcure Remembrance, that ſome Years ago, there was one writ to me out of *Newgate*,

Newgate, under the Name of *Robert Young*, pretending to be a Clergy-Man; and I recal ſomething of the Contents of his Letter. It was to tell me, That *He and his Wife lay in Priſon there upon a Falſe Accuſation, of which he hoped they ſhould be ſpeedily clear'd. In the mean time, he deſired me to recollect, that he had Officiated ſome Weeks for the Chaplain at* Bromley-College, *and had Preach'd once or twice in the Pariſh-Church there. He intreated me to give him a Certificate of this, becauſe it would ſtand him in much ſtead in order to his Juſtification: And withal, that I would ſend him ſomething out of my Charity, for his and his Wifes Relief in their great Diſtreſs.*

This, my Lords, I dare ſay, was the whole Subſtance of that Letter, and this was two or three Years ago at leaſt.

To that Letter I am ſure I made no Reply in Writing. Only, having not the leaſt Remembrance of him my ſelf, I inquir'd in the Neighborhood, and among the Widows in the College; intending to have ſent him ſome Alms ſuitable to his Condition and mine, had I found him worthy.

But upon inquiry, I received from all Hands, ſo very ill a Character both of this *Young*, and his Wife, that I reſolv'd to give him no Anſwer at all; and I have never heard any thing more of him to this Day.

But now, I beſeech your Lordſhips, to give me leave to ſpeak to this Perſon my ſelf: And they intimating I ſhould do as I thought beſt, I ſaid to him;

I Conjure you, in the Preſence of theſe Noble Lords, and eſpecially of the Great LORD of Heaven and Earth, that you will declare the Truth of what I am going to ask you.

When you came to my Houſe at *Bromley*, upon a Faſt-Day it was, I think the firſt Faſt of this Year; Did not you deſire to ſpeak with me, as having a Letter for me? When I came to you into my Hall, Did not you firſt kneel down, and ask me Bleſſing? Did you not then deliver me a Letter, affirming it was from a Country-Miniſter, a Doctor of Divinity? Did not you tell me, You were his Servant, or Bayliff? And that your Maſter had ſent you on purpoſe, many Miles,

to

to receive an Answer your self to that Letter from my own Hand?

Blackhead. *I never brought a Letter to the Bishop of* Rochester *from a Country Minister; I know no such Doctor of Divinity: Nor ever was Servant to any: I only brought a Letter to the Bishop from Mr.* Young.

Bishop of R. My Lords, What I say is most certainly true. This Man had never any other Business with me, but in relation to that Letter, pretended by him, (for now I find it was but a pretence) to be written to me by an Eminent Country-Divine in *Buckinghamshire*, a Person of a Considerable Estate, as he told me. My Lords, I cannot yet call to Mind the Doctor's Name: But the Business of the Letter I am in great part satisfied of, and it was to this purpose:

That there was a Person, (naming him,) who had apply'd to him to be his Curate; but that he had Reason to suspect he had Counterfeited my Hand and Seal for Holy Orders. Therefore he desired me to send him Word under my own Hand by the Bearer his Man, Whether I had Ordain'd such a Man, in such, or such Years: That if I had,

he would Encourage, and Entertain him; if not, he would take care he should be punish'd for his Forgery.

Now, My Lords, upon the receipt of so Friendly a Letter, by this very Messenger, I bid him stay a little, and I would give his Master Satisfaction out of my Books, Whether I had Ordain'd any Man of that Name; which I thought I had not. Accordingly my Secretary, and I, did severally turn over all my Papers relating to such Affairs, as carefully as we could; and finding no such Mans Name in them; in which we could not be easily deceiv'd, because I keep Methodically (as no doubt every Bishop does) all Recommendations, Subscriptions, Testimonials, and Titles of those I admit into Orders; I wrote the supposed Author of the Letter, as civil an Answer as his seemed to deserve.

That I was extreamly pleased, and thankful, that a meer Stranger to me should be so careful of my Reputation: That my Secretary, and I, had diligently examin'd all the Books, where such Things are Recorded: And I could assure him, I never had

dain'd any ſuch Perſon either Prieſt or Deacon, within the ſpace limited in his Letter, or at any other time; That I ſhould look upon it as a ſignal Service done to the Church in general, and a ſpecial Favour to me in particular, if he would, as he promiſed, cauſe the Counterfeit to be apprehended, ſo that the Courſe of Law might paſs upon him.

This Letter, my Lords, all Written with my own Hand, I delivered to the Perſon here preſent: And he went away with it, asking me Bleſſing again upon his Knees, and promiſing I ſhould ſpeedily be made acquainted with the Succeſs.

Earl of *Devonſhire*. *I pray, My Lord, how was the Letter Superſcrib'd you ſent back by this Man?*

Biſhop of R. My Lord, It was to the ſame Perſon, with the ſame Superſcription as he Subſcrib'd himſelf, and directed to the ſame Place, where he ſaid he was Miniſter; tho' the Name of Place or Miniſter I cannot yet recover. But let that Letter of mine be produced, and it will put an end to this whole Controverſie.

Blackhead. *The Letter I receiv'd from the Biſhop, was Superſcrib'd to Mr.* Young, *and to no other.*

Biſhop of R. My Lords, This is a Horrid Falſhood. I well remember now, this Fellow was at my Houſe a ſecond time, ſome Weeks after the firſt. When he came, I was in the Garden with ſome Gentlemen my Neighbours; where, firſt asking me Bleſſing, he told me, *His Maſter the Doctor had taken up the Perſon who had Forg'd my Orders: That the Man ſtood upon his Vindication; but that his Maſter was bringing him up to* London; *and then I ſhould hear farther from him:* Adding, *That his Maſter was a Man of ſuch a Spirit, and ſuch a plentiful Eſtate, that whenever he ſuſpected a Man to be a* Rogue, *or a* Cheat, *he would ſpare no Pains to diſcover him, nor think any coſt too much to get him puniſh'd.* Theſe, my Lords, I well remember were the Knaves very Words: And I hope your Lordſhips will likewiſe deal with him in the ſame manner. I took this ſecond Meſſage ſtill more kindly, and order'd my Servants to entertain the Meſſenger very civilly.

B

Blackhead. *I brought no such Message. All my Business with the Bishop was from Mr.* Young, *which I suppose was of another Nature.*

Bishop of R. What I say is so true, that I am confident several of my Servants do remember the Particulars. For this Man stuck not to Declare his Business before them all; very much Magnifying his Master, and his House-keeping, and Vapouring what an Example he would make of the Counterfeit Priest, without putting me to any Trouble, or Expence.

Earl of *Devonshire*. *Has your Lordship none of those Servants near at hand?*

Bishop of R. My Lord, some of them are in Town; and one, my Secretary, Mr. *Moore*, by an accidental good Fortune, came hither with me: He was without, when I was called in. I doubt not but he will satisfie your Lordships what was this Man's Errand to me: He is a young Man, of Great Honesty, and, I believe, would not tell a Lye to save my Life: I am sure I would not have him.

Whilst

Whilſt they were calling in Mr. *Moore*, I added, My Lords, I appeal to the Great God of Heaven to judge between me and this Wretch, touching the Truth or Falſhood of what we ſay, and to deal with us both accordingly at the laſt Day of Judgment: And I dare alſo appeal to your Lordſhips to judge between us by what appears to you. For did you ever ſee greater Villany, and Conſciouſneſs of Guilt in any Man's Countenance than in his?

By this time Mr. *Moore* being come in, ſaid, *Moore*, Apply your ſelf to My Lord *Nottingham*. I charge you, Do not, for any Conſideration of me, ſpeak any Thing which you cannot juſtifie for Truth.

Earl of *N.* Mr. Moore, *Do you know that Perſon there?* Pointing to *Blackhead*.

Mr. Moore. *My Lord, I do know him ſo far, that I have ſeen him once or twice at my Lord's Houſe at* Bromley.

Earl of *N.* *What Buſineſs had he at* Bromley?

Mr. M. *The firſt Time he brought a Letter to my Lord.*

Earl

Earl of *N.* *From whom?*

Mr. M. *My Lord, It was from a Country Minister in* Buckinghamshire, *a Doctor of Divinity, as he wrote himself, his Name was* Hooke.

Bishop of R. My Lords, I now very well remember that was the Name, *Hooke*, or something very near it. There may be the Difference of a Letter: I will not stand upon that, or can it be expected I, or my Servant, should be positive as to every Letter of a Name, in so sudden a Question.

Earl of *N.* *Mr.* Moore, *What was the Business of that Letter?*

Mr. M. *My Lord, it was concerning one that offered himself to be the Doctor's Curate, whom he suspected to have Counterfeited my Lord's Letters of Orders. The Doctor desired my Lord to look into his Books, whether he had Ordain'd any such Person. My Lord and I did thereupon search all the Places where the Memorials of such Affairs are kept, and we found no such Name; and so my Lord himself wrote back to the Doctor, by this very Man that stands here.*

Earl

Earl of *N.* Mr. Moore, *Will you take your Oath of all this?*

Mr. M. *I am ready to take my Oath of it, if you please to give it me.*

Earl of *N.* *What say you* Blackhead? *You see here is a young Man, the Bishop's Secretary comes in by chance, and confirms punctually what the Bishop had said before, concerning your Message to his Lord: And he offers to take his Oath of it. If you did bring a Letter from one Doctor* Hooke, *Why do you not confess it? It can do you no hurt.*

Blackhead. *I know of no such Divine as Doctor* Hooke; *nor any Thing concerning one that Counterfeited the Bishops Orders. The Letter I brought was from Mr.* Young.

Mr. M. *My Lord, This Fellow cannot but know, that what he says is shamefully false. I assure you, I have the Original Letter at home to produce: And doubt not but divers of my Lords Servants remember him and his Business as well as I do: For he was a second Time at* Bromley *some Weeks after.*

Earl of *N.* *What was his Business then?*

Mr. M. *He ſaid, He came to acquaint my Lord, That his Maſter,* Doctor Hooke, *had ſeized on the Perſon who had forg'd his Orders. My Lord ask'd him, Whether he had alſo ſeiz'd the Falſe Inſtrument? And if he had, deſired it might be tranſmitted to him. This Man anſwered, He believed his Maſter had got it: That he was coming up to* London, *and bringing the Cheat with him; and had been there ſooner, had he not ſprain'd or hurt his Leg: But when he was come, the Doctor would give my Lord Notice, or himſelf wait upon him. My Lord was much pleaſed with this ſecond Meſſage; and gave Orders to have the Bringer of it well uſed. He was ſo; and freely diſcourſed with the Butler, and the other Servants, touching his Buſineſs there. So that I am verily perſwaded ſeveral of them remember all theſe Circumſtances of it, and perhaps more than I do.*

Upon this, *Blackhead*, being again urg'd by the Lords with ſo plain a Teſtimony, perfectly agreeing with what I had ſaid; and he ſtill perſevering obſtinately to deny every part of it; I and Mr. *Moore* were ordered to withdraw, *Blackhead* ſtaying behind.

As I was going out, I ſaid, My Lords, I cannot comprehend to what purpoſe this Fellow perſiſts in this Lye; I am ſure he can never prove that I have injured the Government, in Word, or Deed, or Writing. Then I could not but again obſerve to the Lords, what viſible Marks of Falſhood and Treachery there were in *Blackhead*'s Face. For, indeed all the while he look'd as if he would have ſunk into the Ground: Tho', as I was told afterwards, before I came into the Room he had appear'd very brisk, and bold, and full of Talk. But, upon my firſt coming in, his Complexion, which was naturally very ſallow, turn'd much paler and darker; and he was almoſt Speechleſs, ſaying nothing to any purpoſe, more than what he thought was neceſſary to keep him firm to the main Lye, That he had brought me a Letter from one *Young*, and no other.

But after my being withdrawn, about half an Hour, I was called in again, and *Blackhead* ſent forth.

Earl of *N.* *Now, my Lord, the Buſineſs is out, the Fellow has confeſs'd he brought the Letter*

ter to you, Written not in the Name of Young, *but as from one Doctor* Hookes, Hookes *was the Name, not* Hooke, *your Lordſhip was in the right, in ſaying, you would not ſtand upon a Letter.*

Biſhop of R. My Lords, I could not truſt my Memory ſo far as to a Letter. But one Thing I was ſure of, That was the only Letter this Raſcal ever brought me; and it was not from any whoſe Name was *Young.*

Earl of *N. Well, that Buſineſs is over, he has confeſs'd it; and now, my Lord, Pray take a Chair and ſit down.*

Earl of *Devonſhire. Pray, my Lord, ſit down.*

Biſhop of R. No, my Lords, I deſire you to excuſe me.

Earl of *N. My Lord, we have ſome few Queſtions to ask you, and therefore pray repoſe your ſelf.*

Biſhop of R. If you pleaſe to permit me, I had rather anſwer what your Lordſhips have farther to ſay, ſtanding thus as I am at the Table.

Earl of *N.* *Then, my Lord, we ſhall ask you. Have you ever written to the Earl of* Marleborough *within theſe Three Months?*

Biſhop of R. I think I may ſafely affirm, I never writ to my Lord *Marleborough* in my Life: But I am certain, and upon the Faith of a Biſhop, I declare, I have not written one Word to him theſe Three Months.

Earl of *N.* *Have you received any Letter from my Lord* Marleborough *within theſe three Months?*

Biſhop of R. I proteſt ſolemnly, I have not received any.

Earl of *N.* *Have you received any Written or Printed Papers from my Lord* Marleborough *within that ſpace of Time?*

Biſhop of R. As in the Preſence of God, I declare, I have not. My Lords, I have had ſome Acquaintance with my Lord *Marleborough*, both in King *James*'s Court, and in the Parliaments ſince; but I cannot call to mind, that ever I wrote to him, or he to me.

Earl of *N.* *Then, I think, my Lords, we have nothing more to do, but to wiſh my Lord Biſhop a good Journey to* Bromley.

With

With that they all roſe up, and ſaluted me, teſtifying their great Satisfaction, that I had ſo well cleared my ſelf, and confounded my Adverſary. More eſpecially Two Noble Lords of the Company, to whom, I ſaid I would now particularly Appeal, gave me an Ample Teſtimony of their belief of my Innocency in this Accuſation, and of my Dutiful Diſpoſition to the Government.

My Lord *Nottingham* then told me, in the Name of all the reſt; *They had no farther Trouble to give me.* I intreated them to ſuffer me to add a few Words: They permitting me, I ſaid;

My Lords, I heartily thank you for Confronting me with this Fellow; elſe I could not ſo well have made out my Innocency: But I might ſtill have lain under a Suſpicion, whereof I had not known the leaſt Ground. Had this been a Tryal for my Life, I ſhould have been glad to have ſuch Honourable Perſons for my Judges. But now I have much more Reaſon to bleſs GOD, that you have been my Compurgators: That you are Witneſſes, as well as Judges, of the Detection of this Villany againſt me; whereof,

I muſt acknowledge, as yet, I do not fathom the bottom. Wherefore I muſt intreat, That I may put my ſelf under your Protection for the future. For although this Fountain of Wickedneſs has been now ſtopt in this Particular, as to my ſelf; yet it ſeems to run under Ground ſtill: And unleſs ſpecial Care be taken, it may break forth again in ſome other Place, on ſome other Occaſion, to the Ruine, if not of Me, yet of ſome other Innocent Perſon.

Earl of *Devonſhire*. *No, My Lord, You need never fear this Fountain can break forth any more, to do you, or any other good Man, any Prejudice; He having been ſo palpably Convicted of Knavery and Lying.*

Biſhop of R. My Lords, I hope ſo: As for my Self, I take my own Innocency to be abundantly Vindicated, by this your general Declaration in my Favour. I make no queſtion but your Lordſhips will next Vindicate your Selves, and the Juſtice of the Government, by bringing this Wicked Man to Condign Puniſhment, and by examining the main Drift of his Deſign, and who have been his Accomplices.

They

They all aſſuring me, I might relie upon them for it, I withdrew.

All this while I had not the leaſt Conjecture, or Imagination, who this *Young* ſhould be, with whom *Blackhead* pretended I held ſo cloſe a Correſpondence.

But my next Appearance before the Committee of the Council, will clear up what remains of the whole Wicked Myſtery.

In the mean time, returning Home that Evening to *Bromley*, I preſently met with a plentiful Concurrence of Evidence from moſt of my Servants, of their Diſcourſe with *Blackhead*, and their Knowledge of his Buſineſs, in reference to Dr. *Hookes* Letter.

Firſt, The Butler *Thomas Warren* told me, That according to my Order to uſe him kindly, he had done ſo both times he was with us: Particularly the ſecond time he had entertain'd him with one of the Petty Canons of *Windſor*, who came thither by chance, in the Parlour next the Garden: That thence he brought him down into the Cellar, where *Blackhead* Drunk my Health with Knees almoſt bended to the Ground: That then he earneſtly deſir'd him to ſhew him my Study;

ſaying,

ſaying, I have heard your Lord has a very good Study of Books: My Maſter *Hookes* has a very good one: He often lets me go into it, and I doubt not but you have the ſame Liberty: I pray let me ſee his Books. The Butler anſwer'd, My Lord has but few Books here, only ſuch as he brings from time to time from *Weſtminſter* for preſent uſe, and they are lock'd up in Preſſes, ſo that I cannot ſhew them if I would. I pray then, ſaid *Blackhead*, let me ſee the Room, I hear it is a very fine one. The Butler ſaid, He could not preſume to do it without my leave. Then, ſaid *Blackhead*, let me ſee the reſt of the Houſe. The Butler excus'd his not being able to do it then, becauſe there were ſome Ladies with his Miſtreſs. The ſame Requeſt, he aſſur'd me, *Blackhead* repeated almoſt twenty times: But ſtill he deny'd him.

Then *Thomas Philips* my Coachman, and *John Jewel* my Gardiner, confirm'd moſt of what the Butler had ſaid: All of them agreeing, that both the times he was at *Bromley*, eſpecially the ſecond, he had talked publickly with them of the Buſineſs he came about from his Maſter Dr. *Hookes*: Enlarging much

in

in Commendation of the ſaid Doctor, what a Worthy Man he was; What Hoſpitality he kept; And how he would never reſt, till he had brought to Puniſhment the Knave that had forged my Hand and Seal for Orders. They added, That, after I had diſmiſs'd him, he linger'd about, in the Garden, the Hall, and the great Parlour, a long time; and was full of ſuch Diſcourſes.

Moreover, the Gardiner, and *William Hardy* the Groom, and *Thomas French*, and one or two of the other Servants, who remain'd at *Bromley* whilſt I was in Cuſtody at *Weſtminſter*, did all aſſure me, that this Man, who brought firſt the Letter, and then the Meſſage from Dr. *Hookes*, had been a third time at my Houſe, whilſt I was under Confinement. That it was upon a *Sunday*, which by Computation prov'd to be *Whit-Sunday*, *May* 15th, That they found him in the midſt of the Houſe, before they knew he was enter'd. He told them that, paſſing that way, he came to Condole for my Miſhap, and to enquire what the Matter was; hoping it was not ſo bad as was reported at *London*. They anſwer'd, They knew nothing of Particulars;

ticulars; yet doubted not but I was innocent. That he then again desir'd to see the House. But all the Doors were lock'd, except the great Parlour, which has no Lock upon it. That he would have enticed them to Town to Drink with him; which they refused, but made him Drink there; and he coming after Dinner, they perswaded a Maid-Servant to provide him some Meat: Which she did, but unwillingly, telling them she did not like the Fellows Looks; That perhaps he might come to Rob, or to Set the House, now so few Servants were at Home: That he rather looked (as indeed he did) like some Knavish, broken Tradesman, than an Honest Rich Clergy-Man's Bayliff, or Steward, (as he also call'd himself;) and it has proved since, that her Conjecture was true.

All this, and more, my Servants repeated to me, touching *Blackhead*'s Behaviour in my House, and his Discourse concerning his Master Dr. *Hookes*. And they offer'd to depose it all upon Oath. And, above all, the next Day, being *Saturday*, *June* the 11th, Mr. *Moore* coming from *London*, immediately

ly found the Original Letter, that *Blackhead* had brought me from the pretended Doctor.

Wherefore, being furniſhed with all theſe freſh Materials, eſpecially with the Letter it ſelf; and being not a little ſurprized to hear that the Rogue had, the ſecond time of his coming, been ſo earneſt to get into my Study, or any of the other Rooms; and that he had the Diabolical Malice againſt me, to come to my Houſe a third time, on pretence of Condoling my Misfortune, which I then thought, it was probable, had chiefly proceeded from his Malicious Perjury againſt me: All this conſider'd, I reſolved to go to *London* on *Munday* Morning with theſe Servants, and to carry the Letter that he brought me as from Dr. *Hookes*, to lay the whole Buſineſs before the Lords of the Committee, and to deſire their farther Examination of *Blackhead* upon theſe Particulars.

Accordingly on *Munday*, *June* the 13th, I went, and attended the meeting of the Lords that Morning in the uſual place. When there was a full Committee, I ſent to

them by a Clerk of the Council, intreating that I might have a ſhort Audience. After ſome time, I was introduced. There were preſent (beſides moſt of the Lords before-mentioned,) three others whom I had not ſeen there ſince my firſt Appearance before them, the Marquiſs of *Carmarthen* Lord Preſident, the Lord *Godolphin*, and Sir *John Lowther*.

When I came into the Room, and was juſt going to propoſe the Buſineſs that brought me thither: My Lord *Nottingham* prevented me, and ſaid;

My Lord, Do you know that Perſon there? Pointing to a Man, who ſtood behind the Privy Counſellors, near the Door which leads into the publick Room.

Biſhop of R. My Lord, I do not know him.

Earl of *N. My Lord, I pray obſerve him well.*

Biſhop of R. Upon my Credit I never ſaw this Man before in my Life, to the utmoſt of my Knowledge.

Then the Perſon ſtanding there look'd boldly upon me, and ſaid, *Do you not know me,*

my

my Lord? Do not you remember, that I officiated ſome Weeks at Bromley-College, *for Mr.* Dobſon, *in King* James's *Time? And that I Preached in the Pariſh Church there once or twice?*

Biſhop of R. My Lords, I ſolemnly affirm, I do not know this Man; I never ſaw him before: I never knew that he Officiated in *Bromley-College:* I never heard him Preach in the Church there: He is a meer Stranger to me: He may have ſerv'd for the Chaplain of that College in King *James's* Time: But I was not then concern'd who Officiated there. He may have Preach'd in the Church, and I not have heard him: For about that time I was Clerk of the Cloſet, and was ſeldom or never at *Bromley* on Sundays, by reaſon of my Attendance on the Princeſs *Anne* of *Denmark*, either at *Whitehall*, or *Windſor*, or *Hampton-Court*, or *Richmond.*

The ſame Perſon preſently took me up, with inſolent Confidence, *You will know me better when Captain* Lawe *appears: I warrant, you don't know Captain* Lawe *neither.*

Biſhop,

Biſhop of R. My Lords, if any of your Lordſhips pleaſe to ask me any Thing, I ſhall anſwer with all Reſpect. But I do not underſtand that I am bound to ſatisfie this ſawcy Fellows Queſtions: Yet, becauſe he has ask'd me ſo familiarly, touching my Acquaintance with one Captain *Lawe*, I aſſure you, I know not any ſuch Man in the World as Captain *Lawe*.

But, my Lords, by this Perſon's Diſcourſe I am induced to believe, he may be the *Young*, with whom the other Knave *Blackhead* pretended the laſt time that I held a ſtrict Correſpondence by his Means.

Earl of *N. This Man's Name is* Young, Robert Young.

Biſhop of R. Then, my Lords, becauſe my Lord Preſident, and ſome of the other Lords, were not here then, I muſt beg leave of thoſe that were, that I may repeat what I then remembred concerning one *Robert Young*. Whereupon I recollected the Subſtance of what I had ſaid, of a Letter I had received ſome Years ſince, dated at *Newgate*, from one of the ſame Name, who pretended himſelf to be a Clergy-man.

I added, It ſeems, my Lords, by his own Confeſſion, this is the very ſame *Young*. But as I never ſaw him before he was in *Newgate*, ſo I declare, upon the Faith of a Chriſtian, I never ſaw, or heard from him ſince that Letter: However I am very glad you have him now: I make no doubt but he will be found in the end ſuch another Villain as *Blackhead* was proved to be on *Friday* laſt.

But, my Lords, ſaid I, the Buſineſs that brought me to wait on you now, is to intreat you to take that ſame *Blackhead* into farther Examination, and to inquire a little more into his Part in this *Wicked Contrivance*, whatever it is.

My Lords, ſince I went to *Bromley*, my Servant Mr. *Moore* has had the good Fortune to retrieve the very Original Letter that *Blackhead* brought me from his Counterfeit Maſter Doctor *Hookes*. Then I deliver'd the Letter at the Table, and my Lord *Nottingham* read it aloud. And to ſhew with what a Treacherous Inſinuation, and plauſibility of Style it was written, to draw from me an

Anſwer

Anſwer under my own Hand, - I here ſet down the very Letter it ſelf Word for Word.

My Lord,

BEing deſtitute of a Curate, one Mr. James Curtis *came to me, who produced Letters dimiſſory (bearing Date,* March 13th, 91.*) and likewiſe Letters of Orders under your Hand and Epiſcopal Seal. Now, my Lord, willing I am to employ any that your Lordſhip ſhall recommend, and give him all the Incouragement imaginable; but being ſince, by his own Words, ſuſpitious that his Inſtruments are forg'd, I have therefore on purpoſe ſent my Man to know the Truth thereof, and in order thereunto, I humbly beg your Lordſhip to give an Account in yours, by this Bearer, promiſing, for the Church of* Englands *Credit, and likewiſe your Lordſhip's Honor, that, if he be an Impoſtor, I will ſee him brought to condign Puniſhment for ſuch his Forgery; but if he be not, I beg your Lordſhips Pardon for this Trouble, occaſioned by my candid*

Affection

Affection for your Lordship and all Clergymen, being not willing to have them impos'd upon.

I am Your Lordship's

Most Obedient Servant,

Windgrave, Apr. 6. –92. *Robert Hookes*, D.D.

Now, my Lords, proceeded I, I thought it would be for your Service to acquaint you, That I have received, from divers of my Servants, a farther Account of all *Blackhead*'s Demeanor, the first, second, and third Time he was at my House at *Bromley*; for he was there a third Time also, which I knew not of, before I went home on *Friday*.

Then I summ'd up what it has been said before, my Servants were ready to depose to that purpose: Concluding thus, My Lords, my Servants are attending without; I pray that *Blackhead* may be brought before them Face to Face, and that they may be admitted

to give in upon Oath, what they have to ſay concerning him.

Upon this, ſeveral of the Lords ſaid, Send for *Blackhead*; and he was ſent for.

But before he came, they call'd in Mrs *Young*, the Wife, it ſeems, of the aforeſaid *Robert Young*; but what a kind of Wife, and which of the two Wives he had at one and the ſame time, will appear in what follows.

When ſhe was come in, my Lord *Nottingham* ſaid to her, *Mary Young, Whence received you this Paper?* Taking up a Paper that lay upon the Table.

Mary Young. *I had it from Captain* Lawe.

Earl of *N.* *What did he ſay, when he gave it you?*

Mrs. Young. *He bid me deliver it to my Husband.*

Earl of *N.* *What did he ſay it was?*

Mrs. Young. *He ſaid it was a* Sociate, *or ſome ſuch Word.*

Earl of *N.* *What! Did he deliver you a Paper of this Treaſonable Nature, in the manner as it is, to be given to your Husband, without*

Sealing

Sealing it up, or incloſing it in another Paper.

Mrs. Young. *Yes, my Lord, he did.*

Earl of *N.* *Did he tell you any of the Names to it.*

Mrs. Young. *Yes; He ſaid, there were the late Archbiſhop of* Canterbury's, *the Biſhop of* Rocheſter's, *and ſome other Lords Names to it.*

Earl of *N.* *What paſs'd afterwards between you about it?*

Mrs. Young. *I gave it my Husband, and when Captain* Lawe *came for it again, my Husband ſaid, No, Theſe Lords, whoſe Names are ſubſcribed, have not been ſo liberal in their Relief of my Wants as formerly; and therefore I will make another Uſe of this Paper: And ſo lock'd it up.*

By this time *Blackhead* was brought in, and the Woman ordered to withdraw, and to be kept by her ſelf.

Earl of *N.* Blackhead, *The laſt Time you confeſſed you brought the Biſhop of* Rocheſter *a Letter from* Robert Young, *under the falſe Name of Doctor* Hookes.

Blackhead. *Yes, I did.*

Earl of *N.* *Can you know that Letter when you see it?*

Blackhead. *I cannot tell, I doubt I cannot know it.*

Earl of *N.* *Here it is*; (and it was given into his Hand;) *Is that the same Letter you delivered the Bishop?*

Blackhead. *I am not sure it is.*

Earl of *N.* *Consider it well; look on the Superscription, you cannot but remember that. You began to be somewhat Ingenuous last* Friday; *if you relapse it will fare the worse with you.*

Blackhead. *Yes, this may be the Letter; This is the very same Letter.*

Earl of *N.* *And you received an Answer to this from the Bishop for* Doctor Hookes, *which you carried to* Robert Young?

Blackhead. *Yes, I did, I own it.*

Earl of *N.* *But, What made you, when you were at* Bromley *the second Time, so earnestly to desire of the Bishop's Butler, and his other Servants, that you might see the Rooms in the House, especially his Study?*

Blackhead. *No, I do not remember that I desired to see the Study; The House I might, out of Curiosity.*

Earl

Earl of *N.* *But here are ſome of the Biſhop's Servants without, who are ready to ſwear, that you preſs'd very often to get a ſight of his Study; ſaying, you had the Freedom at your Maſter* Hookes, *to ſhew any Stranger his Books, and you doubted not but the Butler could do the ſame there.*

Blackhead. *I cannot deny that I did deſire to ſee the Biſhop's Study: The other Rooms I am ſure I did.*

Earl of *N.* *What Reaſon had you to be ſo importunate to ſee that, or any of the other Rooms? Had you any Paper about you, that you deſign'd to drop, or leave in any part of the Biſhop's Houſe?*

Here *Blackhead* ſtop'd, as very loath to out with it; till divers of the Lords urg'd him to tell the Truth. At laſt he went on, though with much Heſitancy.

Blackhead. *Yes, I muſt confeſs I had a Paper in my Pocket, which I deſign'd to put ſomewhere in the Houſe.*

Earl of *N.* *What did you with it?*

Blackhead. *I did leave it in the Parlours next the Kitchin.*

Earl of *N.* *In what part of the Parlour?*

Black-

Blackhead. *In the Flower-Pot in the Chimney.*

Good Lord bleſs me, cryed I, I ſeriouſly proteſt, I never heard that any Paper was found there by my Servants. To be ſure they would have brought it me.

Earl of *N.* *But, my Lord, it will be worth your while to ſend preſently to* Bromley, *to ſee whether there be any Paper ſtill, and what it is.*

Biſhop of R. My Lord, I will ſend one away immediately. Only my Servants are without, expecting to be ſworn. Be pleaſed firſt to call them in, and diſpatch them.

Earl of *N.* *Nay, My Lord, There is no need of their Teſtimony now. For this Fellow has ſaid already more than they know. He has confeſs'd, not only that he deſir'd to ſee your Houſe, and particularly your Study, but that he did it with Intention to leave a Paper ſomewhere in it; and that he did leave one in your Parlour, and in the Flower-Pot of the Chimny.*

Biſhop of R. Then, my Lord, I will ſend away forthwith.

Earl of *N.* *Stay, my Lord, let us firſt Examine him a little further.* Blackhead, *What*

Paper

Paper was it you left in the Bishop's Chimny in the Flower-Pot?

Blackhead. *It was the Association.*

Earl of *N. Was it this Paper here?* Shewing the Association that lay upon the Table.

Blackhead. *Yes, it was.*

Earl of *N. How came you by it? And who advised you to lodge it there?*

Blackhead. *I had it from Mr.* Young, *and he advised me to leave it in the Bishop's House, as I did.*

Earl of *N. Did* Young *direct you to put it into the Flower-Pot in the Parlour?*

Blackhead. *Yes, he did, and I put it there accordingly in the Flower-Pot.*

Earl of *N. But were not you a third time at the Bishop's House? It was upon a* Sunday, *which it seems was* Whit-Sunday.

Blackhead. *I was.*

Earl of *N. You pretended to Condole for the Bishop's Imprisonment: It is manifest that could not be your Business. What was it?*

Blackhead. *I was desired by Mr.* Young, *seeing the Association was not found by those who Apprehended the Bishop, to go to* Bromley, *and try to recover it, that being [illegible]*

did ſo, I came into the Houſe before any of the Servants were aware, I went into the Parlour unſeen, and took the Paper out of the ſame place where I had put it, and deliver'd it again to Mr. Young.

Biſhop of R. My Lords, I am very much ſurprized at all this. I cannot but admire the Wonderful Goodneſs of GOD, in this my extraordinary Deliverance. It appears by what this Fellow confeſſes, that this Forged Aſſociation was in my Houſe, in a Flower-Pot, for many Days together: And that it was there at the very time I was ſeized on by your Lordſhips Order. For he ſays he put it there the ſecond time he was at *Bromley*, which was a pretty while before I was in Hold: And took it not out till the third time, which was upon *Whit-Sunday*, the Ninth Day after I was under Confinement. And by a ſtrange and marvellous Providence, that Parlour, where he ſays it lay ſo long in the Chimney, was never ſearch'd or inquir'd after by the Clerk of the Council, or the Meſſenger.

The other part of the Houſe on the Left-Hand of the Hall, where my Study is, and my Chamber above Stairs, and a Parlour

and

and Drawing-Room below; all these they searched very accurately. Particularly, I well remember the Messenger thrust his Hand into the Flower-Pots in every Chimney: Which seem'd very odd to me then: But I now understand the meaning of it.

At this, my Lord *Sydney*, my Lord *Nottingham*, my Lord *Devonshire*, and some others of the Council, affirm'd, That they perfectly remember'd, both *Blackhead*, and *Young*, did especially direct them to give Order to those who should be sent to take me, to search all the Flower-Pots.

By this time it was thought seasonable by the Lords to confront *Blackhead* with *Young*.

But in the mean while, the Counterfeit Association, being handed about the Table, was at length deliver'd to me. It was to this purpose, as much of it as, by a transient View, I could carry away in my Memory.

THat *We whose Names were subscribed, should solemnly promise in the Presence of* GOD, *to Contribute our utmost Assistance towards King* JAMES's *Recovery of His Kingdoms. That to this end, We would have ready to meet Him at His Landing, Thirty Thousand Men well Arm'd. That we would seize upon the Person of the Princess of* Orange, *Dead or Alive; And take Care that some strong Garison should be forthwith deliver'd into His Hands: And furnish Him with a Considerable Sum of Money for the support of His Army*; or to this sense.

March 20. —92.

And the Forged Subscriptions were, as I remember, after this manner:

W. Cant.

Marleborough. *Salisbury.* *Tho. Roffen.*

Cornbury.

Basil Firebrace. *John Wilcoxe.*

Now

Now upon the first sight of this Paper, I presently said, I protest, my Lords, I am very much amazed to see my Hand so well Counterfeited. All the difference is, they have done me the favour to write it finer than I can. Otherwise I acknowledge it is so like, that I verily believe, I my self, had I seen it in another place, should have been apt to doubt whether it were of my Writing or no. I am confident it might, upon the first Blush, deceive the best Friends I have.

But, my Lords, here is another innocent Person's Name, whose Hand I know very well. And I dare venture to say, it is even better forg'd than mine. I mean Archbishop *Sancroft's*.

Lord *Godolphin*. *My Lords, I am very well acquainted with Archbishop* Sancroft's *Hand. And really it is here most exactly counterfeited.*

Moreover, my Lord *Godolphin*, my Lord *Sydney*, and others said, That the Earl of *Marlborough's* Hand had been so well feigned in a Letter pretended to be written to *Young* himself, that it was very difficult for his most intimate Friends to observe any Distinction.

And in that Letter the Biſhop of *Rocheſter* was ſaid to have the Paper in his keeping; which appears now to have been meant of the Falſe Aſſociation's being in my Cuſtody.

Nay, my Lord *Sydney* aſſur'd me, theſe very Impoſtors had brought him a Letter, ſuppoſed alſo to be Written by me to *Young*, which being but of ordinary Matters, he thought not worth the keeping, but he well remembred the Subſcription of my Name was very like this in the Aſſociation, as well indeed it might.

By this time *Young* being come into the Room, my Lord *Nottingham* ſpoke to him; *Young*, *Look upon that Letter*, (ſhewing him his own to me, under the Name of Doctor *Hookes*,) *Do you know that Hand?*

Young. *No, I don't know it.*

Earl of *N. Did not you ſend that Letter to the Biſhop of* Rocheſter *by* Blackhead?

Young. *No, I know no* Hookes. *I never writ to the Biſhop of* Rocheſter, *but in my own Name, with my own Hand.*

Earl of *N. What ſay you,* Blackhead?

Black-

Blackhead. *I did receive that very Letter from Mr.* Young's *own Hand, and deliver'd it to the Biſhop of* Rocheſter *with mine.*

Earl of *N.* (Taking up the Aſſociation, and ſhewing it to *Young,*) *Did not you give this Paper to* Blackhead, *and order him to put it into a Chimney in the Biſhop of* Rocheſter's *Houſe, and into a Flower-Pot, if there were any?*

Young. *No, I never deſir'd him to carry it thither, or to put it into a Flower-Pot.*

Earl of *N. What ſay you,* Blackhead?

Blackhead. *Mr.* Young *did give me that Paper, and directed me to leave it in the Biſhop's Houſe; and, if I could, to put it in a Flower-Pot in ſome Room; which I did, in the Parlour.*

Young. *There is no ſuch matter, I abſolutely deny it.*

Upon this, the Earl of *Nottingham,* the Lord *Sydney,* and ſome others of the Counſellors, ask'd *Young, Why then did you give us ſuch expreſs Directions, to ſend, and ſearch the Flower-Pots, among other Places, in the Biſhop's Houſe?*

Young.

Young. *I ſaid nothing of Flower-Pots. I bid you take care that the Biſhop's Perſon ſhould be exactly ſearch'd; becauſe, when he went abroad, he carried the Aſſociation about him; when he was at home, he put it in ſome private place, for fear of ſurprize: Perhaps I might ſay in the Chimney.*

The Lords replyed, *Nay, we all well remember, you particularly mentioned the Flower-Pots.*

Earl of *N.* Young, *When you perceived that the Perſons ſent to ſeize on the Biſhop had miſſed the Aſſociation, did not you then deſire* Blackhead *to go a third time to the Biſhop's Houſe, and to take it out of the Pot, where he had laid it?*

Young. *No, I know nothing of it.*

Earl of *N. What ſay you,* Blackhead?

Blackhead. *At Mr.* Young's *requeſt, I went to the Biſhop's Houſe a third time; it was upon a* Sunday; *I privately got into the Parlour, and took the Aſſociation out of the ſame Flower-Pot where I had laid it, and return'd it back to Mr.* Young.

Young. *This is a Combination between the Biſhop of* Rocheſter *and* Blackhead, *to baffle the whole Diſcovery of the Plot.*

Which

Which Saying of *Young*'s could not but raiſe a general Smile among all the Company, they lifting up their Hands with great Indignation at his unparalell'd Impudence.

Biſhop of R. I thought, my Lords, the laſt Time I was here, *Blackhead* was the moſt brazen Faced Fellow that ever I ſaw; but now I find this ſame *Young* to be a much viler Miſcreant than he. This is ſo baſe a Suggeſtion againſt me, and ſo impoſſible for me to be guilty of, and I know your Lordſhips ſo little ſuſpect it of me, that I need not make any Anſwer to it in my Defence.

Lord Preſident. Young, *Thou art the ſtrangeſt Creature that ever I heard of; Doſt thou think we could imagine, that the Biſhop of* Rochester *would combine with this thy Confederate, to have an* Aſſociation *written, with his own Hand to it, and then laid in his own Houſe, in a Flower-Pot there? Which, if it had been found, muſt have endangered his Life: And we ſee it was the moſt remarkable good Fortune to him that almoſt ever hapned to any Man, that it was not found there.*

But *Young* ſtill perſiſting, that he believed I had taken *Blackhead* off, they were both order'd

order'd to withdraw. And, I assure my Reader, that during this whole Examination, tho' *Young*'s Forgery was so evidently Convicted by the Confession of his own Companion, and Instrument, yet he behaved himself with a daring unconcern'd Confidence, with a bold and erect Countenance, though it had naturally very much of a Villain in it. His whole Carriage indeed was such, as became the Discipline he has undergone for these divers Years; having so long been almost a constant Inhabitant, together with his Wife, of many of the common Gaols in *England* and *Ireland*; as you shall find before I leave them.

But to make hast to the Conclusion of this Narration; the Lord President call'd for the Letter which *Young* had sent to me under the Name of *Hookes*. When his Lordship had viewed it deliberately, he ask'd also for the *Association*, and having compared them for some considerable time, he broke forth in these Words; *Really, my Lords, it is a very great Providence, that this Letter, sent by* Young, *under the Name of* Hookes, *to the Bishop of* Rochester, *was preserved by his Servant:*

ward. For this very Letter, and the Associ-
ation, were both apparently Written by the same
Hand; you may perceive there is no manner of
Difference in the Writing, but only that the Let-
ter is written in a less Hand, as Letters are
wont to be, and the Association *in a greater, as*
[illegible] Instrument.

[illegible] the whole Board, one after another,
[illegible] sight of both, and all applauded
[illegible] of the Discovery: For it was
[illegible] Light, to all that were present;
[illegible] and Words, of both, were
[illegible] same Form and Figure.

[illegible] my Lord *Godolphin* farther
[illegible] made it plain to [illegible]
[illegible] the *W* in *W. Cant.* in the Subscription,
[illegible] very same Letter with the *W* in *Whereas*,
[illegible] was the first Word of the Counterfeit
[illegible]

For my Part, I could not forbear Exclaim-
ing, *Great is Truth, and it will prevail.*

After all this, I asking the Lords, Whether
they had any farther Service to command
me? And they saying *No*, I spoke these few
Words.

My Lords, I must always acknowledge,

That, next the Signal Providence of God, in so visibly protecting an innocent Man, your Lordships fair and honourable Way of Proceeding with me, in not shutting me up close in the *Tower* immediately upon my first Accusation; but in openly Confronting me with these Varlets, while the Matter was fresh in my Memory, and in so strictly and impartially examining them upon it, was the Principal Occasion, that my Innocency has met with so Vindication as publick and unquestionable, as I my self could have wished and prayed for. But still, my good Lords, I do again most humbly recommend to your Lordships, The Prosecution of this Villany to the Bottom, for the Sake of Truth and Justice, and for the Safety of every other honest Man, whose Life at this time might have been as well as mine. I am sure all your Lordships all believe, that there can be no greater Service to the Government, especially at this time, than to have such perjured Informers so plainly discovered, as to be severely punished according to their Demerits.

And so I took my Leave of their Lordships.

The

This is the Substance of what I can remember, as far as my Part goes in this Surprizing Adventure. As to the Account I promised of my Wicked Accusers, my Reader shall have it as fast as my weak Eyes will give me Leave to write it.

Aug. 1. 1692. *Bromley.* *Tho. Roffen.*

The End of the First Part.

The Second Part
OF THE
RELATION
Of the Late
Wicked Contrivance
Againſt the Lives of ſeveral Perſons, by Forging an *Aſſociation* under their Hands:

Being a farther ACCOUNT of the ſaid Forgery, and of the *TWO AUTHORS* of It,

Stephen Blackhead; and *Robert Young*, aliàs *Youngs*, aliàs *Brown*, aliàs *Hopkins*, aliàs *Hutt*, aliàs *Green*, aliàs *Jones*, aliàs *Smith*, aliàs &c.

Written by the Biſhop of *Rocheſter*.

Quo teneam Vultus mutantem Protea Nodo?

In the SAVOY:
Printed by *Edward Jones*. 1693.

Imprimatur,

November 25.
1692. Edmund Bohun.

TO THE READER.

IT is well known to divers Persons of Worth and Honour, That this Second Part was finish'd, and has layn by me some considerable time: Excepting the Addition of some very few Original Papers lately come to my Hands, which serve only to Explain, and Confirm some Passages, I had Written before.

The Cause of my not Printing it sooner, was an Expectation of Robert Young's

ſpeedy Tryal. But that being now deferr'd till the next Term, upon Occaſion of Mr. Aaron Smith's *Sickneſs, I have been prevail'd with, no longer to delay the Publication of it.*

If any ſhall ſtill ſurmize, That I might have done better to let him alone yet a little while, till the Juſtice of the Nation had paſs'd upon him: I anſwer, That well-nigh all, that I ſay of him, relates to ſuch of his Crimes, which the Juſtice of this, or a Neighbouring Nation, has already paſs'd upon.

And though I can prove, this Villanous Contrivance of his Plot has been at leaſt of a Year and half ſtanding; and do know very many Steps of it, more than are hitherto commonly known; and have ſeen many Letters to this Effect, all Written by Robert Young's *Hand, ſome in his own Name, ſome Forged for me, and divers other Perſons*

Perſons far more conſiderable; yet my Reader will find, I paſs all, or the greateſt part of that by, and leave ſtill enough to be produc'd againſt him at his Tryal.

I do indeed briefly touch upon his late Endeavours to Suborn one Holland, *to ſupport his Perjuries by Perjuring himſelf. But his Diſcourſe with* Holland *to that purpoſe, and the Inſtructions he ſent him to Swear by, having been both averr'd already upon Oath, in an open Court of Juſtice, before a great Aſſembly at* Hicks's-Hall; *I know no Pretence, why I ſhould be bound to conceal what was then, in ſo ſolemn a Manner, made Publick.*

The Truth is, The chief Reaſon that urges me, at this time, to make known to the World the certain Diſcoveries I have made of Robert Young's *moſt deteſtable Villanies of all kinds, is, That I am aſ-*

ſur'd,

jur'd, this Infamous Man does ſtill perſiſt in his cauſeleſs and wild Malice againſt me, and other Innocent Perſons; and attempts, at this time of Day, to Juſtifie his Forged Aſſociation, by the Falſe Teſtimonies of others like himſelf.

Wherefore, ſince he will not yet give me over, it is high time I ſhould begin with him: And whilſt he goes on in ſuch a Barbarous Manner, to ſtrike at my Life, ſurely none will Blame me, if I Debaſe my Self ſo much as to Write His.

But if any One ſhall ſtill ſuggeſt, That I have troubled my ſelf too much, and ſpent too many Words on ſo Inconſiderable a Raſcal: I have this yet to ſay, That ſince He could think himſelf ſo conſiderable, as to hope to be an Evidence againſt Mine, and ſeveral Others Lives; I ſhould be wanting to my Self, to Them, and indeed

to

to the Publick, ſhould I not prove him to be a Dangerous Raſcal; now it has come ſo unexpectedly into my Power to do it.

It ſeems alſo the more ſeaſonable for me at this very time to ſhew him to the World; ſince Blackhead *has made a ſecond Eſcape out of the Meſſenger's Hands; and ſince there goes about a Letter, (Forged, one would think, by* Young *himſelf among his infinite other Forgeries) wherein it is declared, in* Blackhead's *Name, but in* Young's *Engliſh, That* BLACKHEAD has done no Wrong to no Man upon Earth but YOUNG.

Whether this can poſſibly be true, I leave it to any Man upon Earth, that has read my Firſt Part, *to Judge. And whoever ſhall peruſe this my* Second Part, *I doubt not but he will be convinc'd, That,* whatever *Blackhead* has done, I have done *Young* no Wrong.

THE

To the Reader:

The Second Part of the Relation of the late Wicked Contrivance of Stephen Blackhead *and* Robert Young, *againſt the Lives of ſeveral Perſons, by Forging an* Aſſociation *under their Hands*, &c.

IN the former Part I promis'd to give ſome Account and Character of thoſe Wicked Wretches, that brought me into the Troubles there deſcrib'd.

I come now to make good my Promiſe. Only I fear, let me do what I can, the Account of them, which I at firſt deſign'd ſhould be very ſhort, will be much longer, and riſe to a far greater Bulk than I intended: Eſpecially in what I have to ſay of *R. Young*.

But for that, I hope, my Reader will reckon it to be his Fault, and only my Penance: Since his Life has been ſo highly Criminal, and this is ſo clearly atteſted, that

I muſt be ſomewhat large, or elſe I cannot do him all the Right he deſerves, and fully ſatisfie the World concerning him.

I muſt confeſs, I could never have been brought to foul my Fingers with ſo baſe a Subject, had I not been Provok'd, and almoſt Challeng'd to it, by this ſame *Young*'s intolerable Inſolence, even after he found himſelf detected of manifeſt Forgery.

For the laſt time I was diſcharg'd by the Lords at *Whitehall*, on *June* the 13th, whereof I have already given a full Relation; whil'ſt I was paſſing through the outer Room, in my way home, there being a Crowd of People, I ſtopp'd, and ſaid, I pray, Gentlemen, Is Mr. *Young* here? I would fain have another Sight of the Man, who has put himſelf upon me as my old Acquaintance, and intimate Friend: Though I never ſaw him in my Life till this very day.

Divers of the Company preſently ſhewing me where he was, ſitting by himſelf; I ſaid to him, *Robert Young*, Your Conſcience cannot but condemn you for having thus mortally injured me, and other innocent Perſons. I cannot call to mind, that ever I gave you the leaſt Provocation; I am ſorry now for

your own Sake, that you are ſtill ſo obſtinate in defending your Forgeries, after they have been ſo undeniably detected. For you know, there is one of your own Confederates within, who has plainly confeſs'd them.

At this he briskly, and moſt audaciouſly, reply'd to me, without the leaſt Concernment that I could obſerve, *Confeſs'd! No; You ſhall find, to your ſorrow, all is not confeſs'd yet: A Parliament will come; and then you ſhall hear more from me.* I left him, praying God to give him Grace to repent; and only adding, That elſe he was more in danger of his own Damnation, than I of his Accuſation in Parliament.

Now therefore, becauſe of this impudent Defiance, I have taken ſome Pains to inquire into the Man, and his former Courſe of Life.

And notwithſtanding the Time of my Inquiry has been ſo ſhort, (for he was never Perſonally known to me till I ſaw him at *Whitehall* on the 13th of *June* laſt,) nay, though the Scene of his Impious Actions has been ſo large, that I have been forc'd to collect my Intelligence from far and near; yet I have been ſo fortunate in my Diſcoveries of him, and his Meet-help, that now I look up-

on the loathſom heap of Scandalous Materials I have got together againſt him, I am almoſt aſhamed to make it publick.

But perhaps it may be no unacceptable, I am ſure it will be no unſeaſonable Service to my Country, to preſent it with a faithful Picture of one of the moſt graceleſs Wretches that ever yet enter'd upon the Stage of Evidencing; which I think is as bad as can be ſaid of him in ſo few Words.

As to a Diſcovery of the whole Plot and Contrivance againſt my ſelf and others, I have been able to penetrate no farther yet, than to find that it was hatch'd and ripen'd in *Newgate*, where-ever it was firſt laid, or deſign'd.

Of the Managers or Abettors of it, there are but very few hitherto come to my Knowledge: Tho' no doubt there are more ſtill behind the Curtain. And many other Honeſt Men in all likelihood had been accus'd after the ſame manner, had this firſt Attempt taken effect.

For how can it be imagin'd, they would only have introduc'd the good Archbiſhop *Sancroft*, and the poor Biſhop of *Rocheſter*, and joyning us with three or four Perſons of Honor, and a Citizen or two, have then

then ſuppos'd us to be ſo Mad, as to engage under our Hands; to ſeize on the QUEEN's Perſon; to ſurprize the Tower; to raiſe a mighty Army; and to bring the City of *London* into Subjection?

No: Without all Queſtion, if this Falſe Aſſociation had once paſs'd for Authentick, many other Papers of the ſame Nature would ſoon have been produc'd out of the ſame Forge; to the involving of many other innocent Perſons, both of Clergy and Laity, in the like Counterfeit Guilt.

But till Time ſhall bring to light more of this Deteſtable Work of Darkneſs, the whole Ignominy of it muſt be ſhar'd at preſent among the pretended Witneſſes, whom I have already heard named.

Of theſe there was one Captain *Lawe* mention'd both by *Young* and his Wife. And they boaſted much of his concurring Teſtimony, when he ſhould appear. Yet of him I have nothing more to ſay, than that I find, there really was ſuch a Man as *Lawe*, a Priſoner too in *Newgate*, and freed from thence the Fifth day of *Auguſt* 1691: A Captain, *Young* ſaid, he was; and he might as eaſily make him one, as he made himſelf a Prieſt: which

(I thank GOD for the Churches ſake) he was no otherwiſe than in Fiction.

How this Captain got his Liberty, I have yet no Reaſon, that I know of, to examine ſtrictly; ſeeing he has hitherto had either the Modeſty or the Cunning to withdraw himſelf, and not to venture being an Evidence in ſo bad a Cauſe.

For the preſent therefore I leave Captain *Lawe*, as I found him, with no other Mark of Diſgrace, but what his Friend *Young* has fix'd upon him, by naming him as a Man likely to deſerve the Title of the Third Diſcoverer of his Plot.

Of *Blackhead* too, beſide what relates to my Self, which the Reader has had before, I have but one Story more to inſert here; though that indeed is home, and to the purpoſe. For this very *Stephen Blackhead* was Priſoner alſo in *Newgate*, and condemned on *January* 15, 1689, to ſtand in the Pillory, and to loſe his Ears; together with one *Lewis* and one *Patrick*; being all three Convicted of one and the ſame Forgery.

Lewis and *Patrick*, it ſeems, were ſo ill befriended as to have the Rigor of the Law paſs upon them. By what Favour *Blackhead* came

came to be Repriev'd and Pardon'd, it is not now my Buſineſs over-curiouſly to inquire. Elſe I could perhaps tell a Story, how the Knave, being himſelf a broken Taylor, and employ'd in the ſoliciting of others Debts; and having, as is uſual, ſome Bills and Letters of Attorney intruſted with him for that purpoſe, had the good Luck and the Honeſty, by delivering up and cancelling one of them, to ſave his Ears, and purchaſe his Pardon.

But perhaps I do not well to anticipate any part of *Blackhead*'s other Knaveries, not doubting but he will in time ſupply abundant Matter to deſerve a like Hiſtory of himſelf: It is more than probable, that ſome other good and peaceably-minded Man, having been as vilely trepann'd by him as I have been, though perhaps by ſome other Way than a Flower-Pot, will have the ſame Reaſon to ſearch into all his Tricks, and to ſet them out with as much Variety, in as ample a manner, as I ſhall now endeavour to do *R. Young*'s.

It is this *R. Young*, that, I conceive, has moſt merited to be my proper Subject. By what appears yet, *Blackhead* was only the Tool, and

and the Inſtrument: *Young* was the Chief, if not the firſt Contriver of this Treacherous Deſign. *Blackhead* was touch'd with ſome Remorſe, ſo far as to reveal ſome part of the Truth; *Young* perſiſted to the laſt without any Relenting. And when one would have thought he ſhould have been quite overwhelm'd with what his Colleague confeſſed, he had the Face, in ſo honourable a Preſence, with a prodigious and inimitable Turn of Impudence, to impute *Blackhead*'s Confeſſion to my having Suborn'd him.

As to *R. Young* therefore, I will firſt give a true Draught in little of his whole Life: That my Reader, keeping the principal Paſſages of that in his Memory, may know where to require Satisfaction in any Particular, from my Original Papers.

But now, in the very beginning of *R. Young*'s Story, I might be at ſome Loſs, what is really his Name; for in ſeveral Places he has gone under divers Names; and behaved himſelf ſo, as quickly to wear them all out, and to make it neceſſary for him to change them often.

Thus, on ſundry Occaſions, he has paſs'd under the Names of *Brown*, *Smith*, *Hutt*, *Jones*,

Jones, *Green*, &c. In *Dublin* he ſometimes called himſelf *Marſh:* In *Raphoe*, *Hopkins*; to render himſelf more acceptable in his ill Projects; taking the true Names of the worthy Archbiſhop and Biſhop of thoſe Sees at that time.

Yet, after all, I find the Name of *Young* is moſt likely to pay all his Scores? for, notwithſtanding his many Divings under other Diſguiſes, it has ſo happened, that he has ſtill riſen up again at laſt, in his own true Name of *Robert Young*.

There may be alſo as great a Controverſie raiſed, What Country-man he is. In ſome of the Original Papers in my keeping, he paſſes for an Iriſh-man; in ſome for a Scottiſh-man; in his own Letters (which I have the leaſt Reaſon of all to believe, and being my ſelf an Engliſh-man, I am moſt unwilling to believe,) he gives himſelf out for an Engliſh-man, born at *Cheſter*. Wherefore, till I am more familiarly acquainted with him, than he himſelf ſays I am, I muſt be forc'd to leave his Country uncertain: Though I am confident there will be no great Contention or Emulation between the Three Kingdoms, to which of them he owes his Birth.

In the ſame Letters, wherein he ſays he was born at *Cheſter*, he affirms, *That his Grandfather was Sir* Peter Young's *Son, and his Grandmother the Duke of* Lenox's *Daughter.* Had he really been deſcended from Sir *Peter Young*, I might ſtill urge, that he is the more to blame in rendring *An Honeſt Stock*, as he calls it there, infamous, by making it degenerate into the moſt enormous Crimes.

But how can I credit him in this matter of his Extraction from Sir *Peter Young*, and the Illuſtrious Houſe of *Lenox*; when in the very ſame Paper there follows immediately that which, to my Knowledge, is a horrid Lye; *That he was Ordained Prieſt by the Biſhop of* Clogher; For I ſhall give infallible Proof, that his Prieſts Orders he only impoſed on himſelf, by his own falſe Hand.

But to clear up this whole Buſineſs, I have alſo by me a true Copy of an Account he gave of himſelf; wherein, quite forgetting this Romance of his being a *Cheſhire* Man, and his near Kindred to the Duke of *Lenox*, he gives this Narrative of his own Life.

It is dated *May* 26. 1683. and declares, *That he was born at* Warrington *in* Lancaſhire:

That

That he went over into Ireland, *and to School at* Iniskillin : *That he thence removed to* Dublin-*College, being* 18 *Years old ; where he continued Seven Years, and was made Maſter of Arts Eleven Years ſince : That thence he went to be Curate in* Leighlin ; *and for Three Years laſt paſt was Chaplain to the Biſhop of* Ferns *and* Leighlin : *That he Preached all the Courſes for the Dean and Prebends at* 10 s. *a Sermon : That he had all the Book-Money ; that is, the Fees for Marriages, Burials and Chriſtenings, there being no other Pariſh-Church but the Cathedral : That he liv'd in the Biſhop's Houſe till his Death ſince* Chriſtmas : *That, Two Years before, he Marrid the Biſhop's Houſekeeper : That he had Teſtimonials from the College of* Dublin ; *And was Ordain'd by his own Biſhop.*

Now would not any plain honeſt Man take this to be a ſimple and true Narrative of the Mans Birth, his Education, and Converſation? But nothing is more certain than that every Line almoſt of all this is full of groſs Falſhoods. And, as Ill-Luck would have it, after he and his reputed Wife had rambled over *England* for divers Years, and cheated Multitudes of well-

diſpos'd Perſons by the help of Falſe and Lying Certificates, they being at laſt apprehended and impriſon'd at *Bury*, as you will hear, confeſs'd before the Magiſtrates, That all their Teſtimonials and Recommendations, were Falſe, and Forg'd.

Wherefore it is time for me to leave ſtill in the dark, as I find it, that Age of Mr. *Young*'s Life, which he has made either to be meerly fabulous, or ſo mixt with Truth and Fable, that there is no diſtinguiſhing between them. I now apply my ſelf to that part of it, which, from undoubted Teſtimony, I can affirm to be Hiſtorical. And I ſhall date the beginning of this Period about the Year 1680.

In that Year, or near thereupon, his firſt famous Exploit, that occurs to me worthy of himſelf, was his Marrying a ſecond Wife, *Mary Hutt*, whilſt his firſt lawful Wife *Anne Yeabſly* was living; with whom he had Cohabited Five Years, and had Three Children by her.

Then, to qualifie himſelf for Imployment in the Church of *Ireland*, and to maintain his Family, (which he had taken ſuch a way to increaſe) he did really inſinuate himſelf into

Deacons

Deacons Orders by the Hands of the Biſhop of *Killaloo*; whom he circumvented by forging the Archbiſhop of *Caſhell*'s, the Biſhop of *Waterford*'s, and other Clergy-mens Hands, to Falſe, but very ample Teſtimonials of his Morals, and Learning.

But as for his Prieſts Orders, he was beholding to no Biſhop for them: He had only recourſe to his own incomparable Faculty of counterfeiting Hands and Seals; ſo that if that ſame Dr. *Hookes*, you wot of, had been but an honeſt Man, he might eaſily have found out the Falſe Prieſt, without ever troubling himſelf to write to me about him.

However, being after this manner Ordain'd Deacon, and having Ordain'd himſelf Prieſt, he got to be entertain'd as a Curate, firſt at *Tallogh* in the Dioceſe of *Waterford*; whence, for divers Crimes, he run away with another Man's Horſe, which he never reſtored: Then at *Caſtle-Reah* in the County of *Roſcommon*, whence he was forc'd to flee for getting a Baſtard: And laſtly, at *Kildallin* in the Dioceſe of *Kilmore*.

Nor had he been long in this laſt Cure, but he was accuſed, for many Heinous Offences, before the Biſhop of that See; who at the time

of

of my writing this, is the Moſt Reverend Archbiſhop of *Dublin:* Whoſe juſt Deſcription of the Man, I ſhall give in its due place; wherein his Grace has repreſented him, as the moſt Impudent, Lying, Profligate Wretch on the Face of the Earth.

Wherefore to eſcape the Juſtice of his Dioceſan, who knew him ſo throughly; he fled into the Dioceſe of *Raphoe.* But being purſued thither, and trac'd out by the Notoriety of ſome of his New Pranks, he was apprehended by my old Friend Biſhop *Hopkins*, and firſt impriſon'd at *Lifferd*; then removed to the Goal of *Cavan:* Where he was preſently loaded with many of his former Crimes; eſpecially for having Two Wives then living; *Simon Hutt*, the Father of the ſecond, being then an Inhabitant and Innkeeper in *Cavan.*

Whereupon the good Biſhop of *Kilmore*, now Archbiſhop of *Dublin*, fearing *R. Young* might come to be hang'd in his Gown, degraded him from his Orders; if I may call them his, ſince the one of them he had ſurreptitiouſly gotten, the other was really none at all.

Shortly after he was Indicted, and ſhould have

have been Try'd for his having two Wives: But he had ſo order'd the matter, by an admirable Artifice, (which I ſhall tell by and by,) that the two Women could never be brought together at his Trial, to own him for their Husband.

By this means he was diſcharg'd of a Crime, whereof I ſhall preſently give manifeſt Proofs, beſides his own Confeſſion, under his own Hand; which, I hope, the Reader will not think he did Counterfeit too.

But ſtill being in *Cavan* Gaol for Fees and Debts contracted there, to free himſelf thence he made Application to the Duke of *Ormond*, at that time Lord-Lieutenant of that Kingdom; pretending, That if he were once out of Priſon, and had Leave to appear before his Grace, he could make notable Diſcoveries of dangerous Plots againſt the Government; in which ſome of the Nobility, and ſeveral Biſhops, were concerned.

Whereupon, the Popiſh-Plot having been juſt before in full vogue there, as well as here, the Duke thought it expedient to grant him his Liberty, in order to his coming up to *Dublin*, to make good what he had ſo confidently promis'd.

But the Knave had his end, and having got out of Gaol by a pretence ſo plauſible, he never thought of calling at *Dublin*, but retired ſecretly to *Iniskillin*, and let the Diſcovery of that Plot ſhift for it ſelf: Which, they that knew him beſt may think, was the honeſteſt Action of his Life; to break only a Promiſe, that he might avoid being an Iriſh Evidence: And perhaps ſome of my Friends may be apt to ſay, *Si ſic omnia.*

Whilſt he was lurking at *Iniskillin*, he intic'd thither his ſecond Wife *Mary Hutt*, who has ever ſince run the ſame Fortune with him, and been the inſeparable Companion of all his Frauds, and was the very Woman that appeared againſt me before the Lords, to juſtifie the *Aſſociation*. So that from that time we hear nothing more of his true Wife *Ann Yeabſley*. It ſeems he then entirely caſt her off, after he had allur'd her, by the moſt ſolemn Vows of living with her alone, and for ever renouncing the other, to be the chief Inſtrument of his not being convicted at *Cavan*; and that by no leſs than a downright Perjuring her ſelf for his Sake.

But

But whatever became of her, it is certain, that it was with *Mary Hutt* he fled into *England*, in or about the Year 1683. And from that time to this, they have run a conſtant uninterrupted Race of all kinds of Wickedneſs in this Kingdom; ſcarce ever paſſing a Month, or a Week, of theſe Eleven Years, without either being actually in ſome Priſon, or committing ſuch Crimes as deſerv'd the deepeſt Dungeons.

The firſt News I hear of him, after his Arrival in *England*, was upon his making Application to the Venerable Archbiſhop *Sancroft*, for ſome Employment in our Church. This he did in the Garb, and under the Character of a diſtreſs'd Iriſh Clergy-man; and to prove himſelf ſuch, he exhibited his Counterfeit Orders from the Biſhop of *Clogher*. And I muſt not omit, that, as a Teſtimony of his Modeſty, this his firſt Viſit at *Lambeth*, and the producing his Orders there, was within a Month after he had been degraded in *Ireland*.

But the wiſe and wary Archbiſhop immediately ſuſpected him and his Letters of Orders; they being not in Form, or the uſual Style, nor the Seal fix'd in its due place.

Againſt all which Exceptions the Falſary fenc'd as well as he could with a ſhameleſs Lye. Yet he received no other Anſwer, but that his Grace had no Cure void in his Gift.

But *Young* would not be put off ſo; ſhortly after he came again, deſiring and preſſing the Archbiſhop, to recommend him to be Chaplain to ſome Ship, or to ſome Cure in one of our Weſtern Plantations. Which his Grace again refuſed, and upon ſurer Grounds than before: For in the mean time he had ſent to Dr. *Foley*, Chaplain to the Archbiſhop of *Dublin*, then in *England*, for a better Information concerning this bold and importunate Man; which produc'd the Letters hereafter ſet down from the Lord Archbiſhop of *Dublin*, and the Lord Biſhop of *Ferns* and *Leighlin*, touching his Forging of Orders, his Degradation, his double Marriage, and other his good Qualities.

Thus failing at the Archbiſhop's, he forthwith ſent his Woman to *Windſor*, where the Court then reſided, with a Petition to the King; therein ſhe ſets forth, *That her Name was* Mary Green, *the Wife of one* Robert Green, *an Iriſh Miniſter; who, going into the* Weſt-Indies, *upon urgent Affairs, was taken Captive by*

by the Pyrats of Sally. *Therefore ſhe prays that the King would be Graciouſly pleas'd to Recommend her ſad Condition to the Clergy of* England; *and that His Majeſty would Requeſt them* (ſo her Secretary words it) *to contribute their Charity toward her Husband's Ranſom.*

This Petition was read in Council *Jun.* 18. 1684. and referr'd to the Lord Archbiſhop of *Canterbury*, and the Lord Biſhop of *London*. But we may be ſure the Petitioner, or her Husband, came no more to *Lambeth*, for an Anſwer to the Reference. They took a ſhorter way, and much eaſier to themſelves; they forg'd a favourable Report upon the Petition, under the Archbiſhop and Biſhop of *London*'s Hands and Seals; by Virtue of which (together with the Archbiſhop's true Hand and Seal, which they had gotten by chance, and affix'd a falſe Recommendation to it) they wander'd a long time over *England*, ſometimes together, ſometimes aſunder, he paſſing for her Brother, ſometimes under the Name of *Robert Hutt*, ſometimes of *Robert Green*; and ſo cheated the King's Subjects of very conſiderable Sums.

But at length this Plot was unluckily ſpoil'd by their coming in their progreſs to play their Pranks in *Suffolk*, the Archbiſhop's Native Country, eſpecially in *Bury*; where exhibiting their falſe Recommendations to Mr. *Cleggat* the Miniſter of that Town, the Vagabond and his Quean were ſeiz'd upon ſuſpicion; and being ſeverally examin'd, they themſelves confeſs'd before divers Juſtices of the Peace the whole Train of their Forgeries in this Particular. Whereupon they were Tryed, and found Guilty, and Sentenc'd to ſtand in the Pillory in the Market of *Bury*, *Octob.* 6. 1684. he going under the Name of *Robert Young*, alias *Hutt*, ſhe of *Mary Green*, alias *Hutt*, alias *Peirſon*, alias *Young*.

Sometime after this, having made a Property of the Name of *Green*, and of the Captive Iriſh Miniſter long enough, and ſqueez'd out of it as much Money as it would afford; and not being to be terrified from ſo gainful a Traffick by one Pilloring at *Bury*, they ſtill carried it on, only changing the Scene, and altering their Style: She, that before was *Mary Green*, is again ſent out, and furniſh'd by her Friend, with a new ſet of forg'd Inſtruments, and Names.

In

In ſome of her falſe Recommendatory Papers, ſhe paſſed for Mrs. *Mary Jones*, Wife of Mr. *Robert Jones*, Rector of *Aſhford:* In others, for Mrs. *Mary Smith*, Wife of Mr. *John Smith*, ſuppoſed Rector too, at the ſame time, of the ſame *Aſhford*, in the Dioceſe of *Canterbury*; whereas neither *Jones*, nor *Smith*, was ever Rector there, no more than Doctor *Hookes* is Rector of *Wingrave* in *Buckinghamſhire*.

However, each of theſe her new Husbands was pretended to be a Priſoner for a vaſt Debt upon the account of Suretiſhip: And ſhe carried about with her divers counterfeit Letters of the Hand ſtill of Archbiſhop *Sancroft*, deſiring (and in one of her Papers making his Grace humbly to beſeech) the Contributions of the Biſhops and Clergy for the poor Mans Enlargement.

This Cheat was indeed more Gainful to them than the former. The Archbiſhop's Hand was ſo admirably well imitated, eſpecially in the Subſcriptions of his Name, that ſhe generally met with a very kind Reception; and particularly applying her ſelf to three Biſhops, who, of all the Bench, were the Archbiſhop's moſt intimate Friends, even they were deceiv'd by a *Legerdemain* ſo well deviſ'd;

vis'd; and nothing doubting, but it was his Grace's true Hand, (though they knew it almoſt as well as their own) they and their Clergy were very bountiful to her.

Nor was *Robert Young* himſelf all this while Idle, but ſometimes he accompanied this Mrs. *Jones*, and Mrs. *Smith*, as her Brother; ſometimes he came after her as her Receiver; ſometimes he went a different Road from her, as her Agent deputed to ſolicite good Peoples Charity to ſo Pious a Work: Shewing another falſe Letter under the Hand of Dr. *Faulconberge*, Secretary to the Archbiſhop; wherein were ſet down divers Sums, as given by ſeveral of the Clergy, to draw in others; and among the reſt, I thank her, ſhe owns the Receipt of 4 *l.* from the Biſhop of *Rocheſter*.

I admire how it was poſſible this their Wicked Trade was not ſooner diſcovered; which it had certainly been in a Nation leſs Charitable than ours. But here they ſucceſsfully drove it on the better part of the Year 1687. Till at length the Archbiſhop was alarm'd from divers Quarters, by Notice that his Hand and Seal went a Begging about the Kingdom: Which occaſion'd the Advertiſements,

tiſements, that were given to the whole Nation in the *Gazettes* of *Sept.* and *Octob.* 1687. to beware of Mrs. *Jones* and *Robert Smith*; and to apprehend them, that they might be dealt with according to Law. Whereupon Mrs. *Jones* was very cloſely trac'd to *Cheſter*, and ſearch'd for there by the Lord Biſhop of St. *Aſaph*'s Order. But ſhe prevented the Diligence of his Meſſenger, and eſcap'd to *London*.

Not long after this, they both came to *Bromley*. The occaſion of it was (as I have underſtood ſince) that Mr. *Goodwyn*, who Officiated ſometime for Mr. *Dobſon*, falling ſuddenly ill, and going to *London* for Cure; and being at a loſs for the Supply of a Chaplain at the College of Widows; had by chance this *Young* offered to him, as a Grave *Iriſh* Clergy-Man, of good Preferment in that Church, but at preſent out of Buſineſs, having fled that Kingdom with his Family, upon the beginning of the Duke of *Tyrconnel*'s Rage againſt the Proteſtants.

By help of this Impoſture he and his Wife were entertain'd at *Bromley*. Though by good hap they made a very little ſtay here. Yet as ſhort as it was, he has left ſignal Marks behind him of his Wickedneſs, and particularly

of

of his frequent owning that he had the Knack to Counterfeit any Man's Hand in *England*.

However, during his ſmall Time in the College, the good Widows had reſpected him, and his Fellow-Traveller ſo kindly, that he remember'd it two or three Years after, when he was in *Newgate*. I will preſently produce the very Letter written thence, in which he is not aſham'd to beg of an Hoſpital, and in a Canting Strain to intreat they would make a Collection among them, towards his being remov'd to the *Kings-Bench*.

The whole Letter is full of Prevarications: But there is one I cannot forbear mentioning now. For though the true Cauſe of his, and his reputed Wife's being clapp'd up in *Newgate*, was their Forging ſeveral Bills of *Exchange*, and receiving the Money upon them, for which they both then ſtood Convicted, and had been Pillory'd; yet he ſolemnly proteſts, and thanks God, That *he was not a Priſoner for any ill thing; but only becauſe an* Iriſh-Man, (*whom I pray God forgive*, theſe are his very words) *ſwore againſt me, That by Virtue of Bills, I rais'd Money for the Uſe of King*

James: *Whereas*, ſays he, *you all remember, I ſtood up for the Church of* England, *and ſtood in the Gap againſt the* Roman *Catholicks in the worſt of Times.*

But after a ſhort time of ſojourning here, of about ſix Weeks, or two Months, in the year 1687, *Robert Young* ſoon perceived, that the poor Town of *Bromley* was not a proper Seat for him to ſet up his Reſt in: where he could only expect a bare Subſiſtence by Reading Prayers, as a Subſtitute to one who was himſelf a Subſtitute to the Chaplain of the College: whereas he knew, and had practis'd, afar more ready way of getting a plentiful Livelyhood; whether honeſt or diſhoneſt he matter'd not.

Wherefore removing hence to *Wapping*, and thence to *White-Chappel*, he began to look out for ſome fitter place for a new Scene of Action; where he might more profitably exerciſe his Beſt beloved Faculty of Counterfeiting Hands and Seals.

At length he caſt his Eye on *St. Albans*, a Town, which by reaſon of its great Trade, and convenient diſtance from *London*, and being ſo great a Thorough-Fair, he pitched on to Practiſe in it ſome of the Cleanlieſt Feats,

I muſt ſay, of his knaviſh Dexterity in that kind.

Between *S. Albans* and *London* he began to ply in the beginning of the year 1688, and it was not long before he crept into a great Familiarity in the *Poſt-Houſe* there. By what Arts of Courtſhip he became ſo intimate on a ſudden in the Family, I leave it to the enſuing Papers to inform my Reader.

However, by this means, he procured the abſolute Command of all the Mails of that Road; and ſo had the opportunity of opening and peruſing, and taking out, and putting in, what Letters he pleaſed, between the chief Traders of thoſe parts, and their Correſpondents in *London*.

Having thus furniſh'd himſelf with proper Tools, and choſen as fit a Shop to work in, as any in *England*; he preſently fell to his uſual way of Commerce: whereof I ſhall only mention three or four Inſtances: they being the very ſame for which he and his ſuppoſed Wife were afterwards Condemn'd of Forgery at the *Old Baily*.

His firſt Cheat was thus. In *July* 1688, he went to *Northampton*, and under the Name of *Robert Smith*, paid to Mr. *John Clarke*,

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an Inhabitant there, the Sum of Twenty Pounds, and took his Bill of Exchange for it, to one Mr. *Jonathan Kendall* of *London*: Mr. *Clarke* alſo ſending a Letter of Advice, that he had drawn ſuch a Bill upon him for the Uſe of Mr. *Robert Smith*.

Robert Young, whom we muſt now call *Robert Smith*, forg'd another Bill *verbatim* by the true one, for the ſame Sum of twenty Pounds, payable to himſelf under the ſame falſe Name: and ſtraight coming up to *London*, deliver'd the Forg'd Bill to Mr. *Kendall:* which being ſo very exactly done, Mr. *Kendall* made no delay of paying it, and had *Robert Smith*'s Receipt, Dated *July* 16.

As ſoon as this was over, honeſt *Robert* immediately took Horſe, and haſted down to *Northampton*; where arriving on *July* 17. he forthwith went to Mr. *Clarke*, and told him, *That he had offer'd his Bill at* London, *but Mr.* Kendall *refuſed to pay it, and therefore deſired his Money again*, producing the true Bill: which Mr. *Clarke* receiving, and ſeeing no imaginable Cauſe of Diſtruſt, paid the Twenty Pounds without any Demurr.

Thus far Mr. *Clarke* and Mr. *Kendall* only ſuſtain'd the Loſs of Twenty Pounds, and perhaps ſomewhat ſmil'd at the clever Contrivance. But that which next follows, was more extraordinary, and ſtruck deeper into their Purſes.

And how can my Reader now think it probable, that both Mr. *Clarke* and *Kendall* ſhould be again Cheated by the ſame Hand, of a much greater Sum, within leſs than three Months after? Yet ſo it really happen'd; and in ſuch a manner that it was almoſt impoſſible for the Wit of Man to prevent it.

His ſecond *St. Albans* Cheat therefore was this. Being now become perfect in the exact Character of Mr. *Clarke*'s Writing, he Forg'd a Bill, Dated *October* 5. 1688, as drawn by Mr. *Clarke* on Mr. *Kendall*, for One hundred and fifty Pounds, payable at ſight to his own *Mary Young*, under the Name of Mrs. *Mary Clarke*.

And becauſe there was a Neceſſity that a Letter of Advice ſhould go before the Bill, he Counterfeited one alſo in this manner. In the *Northampton* Bag, which he opened at *St. Albans*, he found a long Letter written to Mr. *Kendall* by Mr. *Clarke*, touching divers particular

particular Affairs then tranſacting between them. This Letter he intercepted; Tranſcrib'd it throughout, and about the middle of his falſe Copy, inſerted theſe Words, *That he had drawn on Mr.* Kendall, *a Bill of One hundred and fifty Pounds, to be paid upon ſight to Mrs.* Mary Clarke; and ſo went on with the other Buſineſs, as in the true Letter. This Forg'd Letter he put into the *Northampton* Mail; ſo it went ſafe to Mr. *Kendall* at *London.*

The next morning after, Mrs. *Mary Clarke* came to him with her Bill. Whereupon Mr. *Kendall*, not in the leaſt ſuſpecting that the Bill or Letter of Advice were Forg'd, becauſe he was confident, they were both of Mr. *Clarke*'s own Hand-writing, and the Letter giving him an account of ſeveral other Buſineſſes, which he thought could not poſſibly be known to any, but to Mr. *Clarke* and himſelf, he preſently paid to *Mary Clarke* the One hundred and fifty Pounds, and ſo loſt the whole Sum beyond Recovery.

His third Cheat on the ſame Road was in this Manner. About the latter end of *February*, in the ſame year, 1688, he ſent his

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ſecond Falſe-Self now again under the Name of *Mary Young*, to Mr. *Jonathan Mathew* of *Daventry* in *Northamptonſhire*. She paid him Nine Pounds; for which he gave her a Bill of Exchange upon Mr. *Richard Shipton* of *London*, payable to the ſaid *Mary Young*, which ſhe receiv'd *March* the 14th.

By this true Original of Mr. *Mathew*'s own Hand, on the 18th of *March* following, he forg'd another Bill in the Name of the ſaid Mr. *Mathew*, for 200 *l.* charged alſo on the ſaid Mr. *Shipton*. And having ſtill the Liberty to ſearch the *Daventry* Mail at St. *Albans*, and finding there a Letter from Mr. *Mathew* to Mr. *Shipton*, he made the ſame uſe of it as he had done that of Mr. *Clarke*'s to Mr. *Kendall*; Tranſcribed it entirely, and in the ſame ſurreptitious manner as before, put in an Advice of his having drawn a Bill of 200 *l.* and for whom. Which Letter was immediately ſent by the Poſt to Mr. *Shipton*.

The Falſe Bill and Letter of Advice, I am aſſured, was ſo accurately Counterfeited, that Mr. *Mathew* himſelf could not diſcover the difference, nor diſown it upon view; but only in that he was certain he had never drawn any Bill of that Importance.

Mr. *Shipton*

Mr. *Shipton* therefore was eaſily deceiv'd by the Similitude of Hands; and *R. Young* having ſent *Mary* to *London*, to receive the Money, he paid it without the leaſt ſcruple; ſince this Letter of Advice alſo mentioned other things which Mr. *Shipton* knew to be true.

Mr. *Mathew*, as ſoon as Mr. *Shipton* ſent him word, that he had paid in his Name a Sum ſo conſiderable, diſpatch'd immediately a Servant up to *London*, to let him know, He had never drawn any ſuch Bill upon him, and had given him this timely Notice, that, if poſſible, he might retrieve the Money.

Thenceforth they both us'd all imaginable Endeavours to diſcover the Authors of the Fraud. Which *Mary Young* perceiving, by their frequent Letters to each other, *Robert* having ſtill the Advantage of opening at St. *Albans*; ſhe wrote Mr. *Mathew* a moſt inſulting Letter; telling him, *That ſhe had made bold to borrow of Mr.* Shipton 200 l. *upon his Credit, but would repay it when ſhe was able.* And to amuze him the more in his Search, ſhe addeth a Flam Story, *That ſhe had got his Hand by Corrupting one of the Letter-Carriers in* London; *and that therefore he need not*

trouble

trouble himſelf to enquire any farther about the Matter: Subſcribing her ſelf, *Mary Young*, alias *Brown*, alias *Stewart*, alias *Forbus*, alias *Boner*, *&c.* of which pretty piece of Impudent Raillery, my Reader ſhall have the true Copy, when it comes in its courſe.

His laſt Forgeries Practis'd at St. *Albans*, that have come within my Obſervation, were upon Mr. *Olds* of *Coventry*, and Mr. *Billers* of *London*.

But before I proceed to theſe, I muſt acquaint my Reader, that *Robert Young* had ow'd Mr. *Olds* and Mr. *Billers* an antient Grudge, of as long ſtanding as the Year 1683; Becauſe then he could only defraud them of Ten Pounds, and a Ring, and not of one hundred Pounds, as he deſign'd. The Caſe was thus:

Robert Young, in *June* 1683. Forg'd a Bill in the Name of Mr. *Joſeph Olds* of *Coventry*, for 100 *l.* upon Mr. *John Billers* of *London*; payable at ſight.

He likewiſe Forg'd a Letter of Advice of the ſaid Bill, which he procur'd to be put into ſome Poſt upon the Road. And accordingly it was deliver'd in *London* to Mr. *Billers* on *June* the 12th.

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The next Day, being *June* the 13th, *Robert Young*, in a Canonical Habit, with a Scarf on, preſented to Mr. *Billers* the Forg'd Bill for 100 *l.* The Counterfeit was exact, and Mr. *Billers* had receiv'd a Letter of Advice before. Whereupon he ſtrait order'd his Caſh-Keeper to pay the Reverend Mr. *Young* his Bill.

Robert ſeeing the Money come ſo freely, would have taken it upon Content. The Servant would not pay it, except he would tell it over; which at length he did.

But before he could carry it away, the Servant whiſpering this to his Maſter, and Mr. *Billers* himſelf obſerving ſomething in the Bill, that gave him reaſon to ſuſpect it, came to them, and ſaid to *Robert*, *That he deſir'd to be better ſatisfi'd in the ſaid Bill, and that he was the Perſon, whoſe Right it was to receive it, ſince he knew him not.*

Robert reply'd, *He was a Country Miniſter, altogether a Stranger in Town, and known to none but the Archbiſhop of* Canterbury. *Well*, ſaid Mr. *Billers*, *When you bring me any of the Archbiſhop's Gentlemen, to give me an Account of his Grace's Knowledge of you, you ſhall preſently have the Money.*

But *Robert* pretended very urgent Occasions for it, and that *he was to pay away some of it that Night*; and *therefore earnestly intreated he might have the whole, or at least Ten Pounds of it for the present.* Mr. *Billers* consented to this last Request: Mr. *Young* gave a Receipt for the Ten Pounds: And to prevent a farther trouble of telling the Money again, Mr. *Billers* desir'd him to Seal the rest up in the Bag where it was put. Mr. *Young* had no Seal. Mr. *Billers* pull'd off his Finger a Gold Ring set with a Cornelian Stone: Bid Mr. *Young* Seal the Bag with it: Gave the Ring into his keeping: Appointed him to bring it again the next Day, when he came for the Residue of the Money. Mr. *Young* very fairly went away with the Ten Pounds, and the Ring; but never came again for the Remainder of his Bill, or to bring Witness that he was acquainted with the Archbishop.

Having now set forth this Matter of Fact of Mr. *Billers* keeping back 90 *l.* from Mr. *R. Young*, even just when he was in the very Act of Receiving it. I leave it to my Reader to judge, whether *Robert* did not owe him a Good Turn. My next Business is to shew how he paid it him. Some Years indeed

deed had paſs'd before he took his Revenge, which I ſomewhat wonder at; but he took it at laſt to ſome purpoſe.

The manner how it was done, I ſhall expreſs as briefly as I can, becauſe the Circumſtances of this were very near the ſame with his other aforemention'd St. *Albans* Forgeries.

About the middle of *Febr.* 1688. he ſent his Faithful Inſtrument *Mary*, under the Name now of Mrs. *Sarah Harris*, to pay the ſame Mr. *Olds* 10 *l.* at *Coventry*, for which he gave her a Bill of Exchange upon the ſame Mr. *Billers*, payable at ſight: So, for very good Cauſe, *Robert* took care all, or moſt of his Bills ſhould be worded.

By this means *Robert* renew'd his Acquaintance with Mr. *Olds*'s Hand, and ſoon perfected himſelf in it, by watching over all his Letters of Correſpondence with Mr. *Billers*, which muſt come from *Coventry* through St. *Albans*, where he Govern'd thoſe that Govern'd the Poſt-Houſe.

Being thus prepar'd, he began at firſt to play at ſmall Game, that he might keep his Hand in uſe. For, finding in one of Mr. *Olds*'s Letters, two Bills, the one of 14 *l.* 10 *s.* the

other of 20 *l.* both payable to Mr. *Billers*, he took poſſeſſion of the Letter; Forg'd Endorſements on the Bills, in the Name of Mr. *Billers*; that they ſhould be paid to his Servant *James Moreton*: Whoſe true Name was *James Young*, and he was really *Robert*'s Servant. And accordingly both theſe Bills were paid *Aug.* 5. 1689. to *James Moreton*, alias *Young*; as it ſeems nothing can belong to *Robert Young* without being intitled to an *Alias*.

This *James Moreton*, alias *Young*, I ſay, did actually receive both the Bills; and thinking it was but reaſonable he ſhould have a ſhare in the Profit, as he had in the Knavery, paid the Sum of the one Bill to his Maſter, and kept the other to himſelf: The firſt Cheat, and the laſt (I believe) that was ever put upon Mr. *Robert Young*.

But after theſe leſs gainful Experiments, it ſeems, *Robert Young* thought it now a fit Seaſon, that his main Plot upon Mr. *Olds*, and Mr. *Billers*, ſhould begin to work. For by his long familiarity with the Northern Mails, he had learnt, that at this time there was a conſiderable Caſh of Mr. *Olds* remaining in the Hands of Mr. *Billers*.

Where-

Wherefore, by the ſame Method which he had uſed in his other Cheats of this kind, he forg'd a Bill of 200 *l.* to be paid at ſight to the ſame Mrs. *Sarah Harris*, proceeding in the ſame Steps as before; that is, he intercepted one of Mr. *Olds*'s Letters; Tranſcrib'd it; adding an Advice of having drawn the ſaid Bill of 200 *l.* for Mrs. *Sarah Harris*: Then ſuppreſs'd the true Letter, and put the Falſe One into the Poſt; which was deliver'd to Mr. *Billers* at *London* upon *Auguſt* the 11th, 1689.

The next morning came Mrs. *Sarah Harris* to Mr. *Billers*, and produc'd her Forg'd Bill: He could diſcover no Deceipt in the Hand; own'd he had received the Letter of Advice; and was juſt giving Order for the Payment; when, by good Fortune, he recollected, That he had heard Mr. *Shipton* of *Friday-ſtreet* had, not long before, been defrauded after the ſame manner, by a Woman, coming (as this did,) in the morning, and of the ſame Sum of 200 *l.*

The freſh Remembrance of this gave him juſt Grounds of being Jealous of the like Trick: So that, while the Money was Telling out, he thought it would not be amiſs to

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ſend and deſire Mr. *Shipton* to come and take a view of this Mrs. *Harris*, intimating the Reaſon why he ſent for him.

Mr. *Shipton* came accordingly; and upon the firſt ſight declared her to be the ſame *Mary Young*, that had lately Cheated him of his 200 *l.*

She being thus unexpectedly charged with this Crime, confeſs'd it upon the place: Whereupon ſhe was Apprehended, and Committed to the *Kings-Bench*; after ſhe had received above 500 *l.* in a ſhort ſpace, by the like Ways, whilſt ſhe was ſuch a kind of Agent at *London* for *Robert Young*; as my Reader will find ſhe own'd upon Oath afterwards at *Lichfield.*

But in the *Kings-Bench* I muſt leave her for a ſhort time, that I may look out after her Dear Friend, and inquire, how he behaved himſelf in this ſad Cataſtrophe of their Affairs; after they had ſo long proceeded ſmoothly, and proſperouſly.

It was high time for him now to intermit his Correſpondencies at *St. Albans*, and to remove to a greater diſtance from *London*; ſo that the next Foot-ſteps, I have trac'd of his Rogueries, were at *Lichfield:* Whither, I find

find alſo, he had made ſome Excurſions in the Year 1688. But now, in the Year 1689, it ſeems he went thither reſolving to ſettle there for ſome time.

There he appeared in a gentile Habit, with his Man, *James Young* alias *Moreton*, to wait upon him: There he perſonated again an Iriſh Clergy-man, of conſiderable Preferments in that Church, and a plentiful Temporal Eſtate. He kept two Horſes, rode often abroad in an Equipage rather fitting a High-way-man, than a Divine. He had plenty of Gold and Silver, and ſome Plate; the Product, no doubt, of his late Cheats upon Mr. *Clarke*, and Mr. *Mathew*, and Mr. *Olds*, beſides ſome Remains probably of what was collected for Mr. *Green*, Mr. *Jones*, and Mr. *Smith*, whilſt they, good Men, perhaps, lay in Priſon for it all the while.

During his abode at *Lichfield*, he profeſs'd himſelf to be a ſingle Man, and upon that Pretence made Love to divers Women, in the way of Marriage; believing, that his former *Mary* was lodg'd ſo ſafely in the *Kings-Bench*, that ſhe could never get out to diſturb his Deſigns.

But

But there he was deceived: For when the Fire broke out in *Southwark*, ſhe made her Eſcape, and ſo had leiſure to look out after him, and came time enough to prevent his intended Marriage.

For juſt then he was in cloſe purſuit of a young Woman at *Tamworth*, who had at leaſt 1000 *l.* to her Portion, and he was in great probability of obtaining her. But *Mary*, having got looſe by the above-mentioned Accident, wrote him divers Letters, *That all her Money was ſpent*; *That ſhe would be with him ſhortly, though ſhe begg'd by the way.* Which at laſt ſhe made good, and arrived there ſome few days before his new-deſign'd Wedding, and Challeng'd him for her Husband. Or elſe undoubtedly he had ſerv'd *Mary Hutt* the ſame Trick, for the ſake of a Touſand Pounds, as my Reader will find he really ſerv'd *Ann Yeabſly* for One Hundred and Fifty.

But this had like to have coſt *Mary* her Life: For *Robert* being enrag'd at the diſappointment, practis'd with his Man to meet her in her coming down, and either to cut her Throat, or Drown her. And when he refus'd, (which was a Wonderful Honeſty

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in any one that could ſubmit to be his Man,) *Robert*'s next Attempt was to diſpatch and kill his Man, as he went abroad one day with him a Shooting.

My Reader no doubt will be amaz'd at this horrible Story, yet I ſay no more than what his Man himſelf declared upon Oath at *Lichfield*, and what all the Country thereabout believes to be true.

But the Gun not going off, his Man fled from him, firſt to *Lichfield*, and thence to *Coventry*; where he acquainted Mr. *Olds*, a Mercer there, whom I have already ſo often mention'd, with the ſeveral Cheats that his Maſter *Robert Young* had formerly acted upon him, by Forging Bills of Exchange.

Mr. *Olds* having never before, by all his Search, been able to diſcover the Contrivers of thoſe Forgeries, without delay, repaired to *Lichfield*, and lighted upon *Robert Young* whil'ſt he was yet fluſh of Money and Plate; which he pretended to have brought out of *Ireland*, where he affirm'd he was a Dean.

Mr. *Robert* being thus unawares charg'd with all theſe Cheats, freely confeſs'd them all to Mr. *Olds*: And, that he might not loſe

his new-gotten Reputation in the Church there, and all his Hopes at once, privately made up the Busines, and repaid to Mr. *Olds* all he could demand: That is to say, the 14 *l.* 10 *s.* the 20 *l.* and the 10 *l.* and the Value of the Gold Ring: Which unlucky Blow to his Fortune made him, for the future, be content to be serv'd without Plate.

But this was also the Occasion of a worse Mischief, that shortly after befel *Robert Young* and *Mary*; I say *Mary* also. For before this, she arrived safe at *Lichfield*: And though at first he positively deny'd her to be his Wife, and forswore her too, according to his Custom; yet, in short time, I know not how, they were piec'd together again, as seeming indeed to be born for one anothers Society.

I have already told my Reader, That Mr. *Mathew* of *Daventry* had used all possible Industry, and written a vast number of Letters, and made many Fruitless Journies, in quest of the Author of his 200 *l.* Forgery. But all in vain, till now, the Noise of it spreading all over the Country, came at length to Mr. *Olds* at *Coventry*. He presently gave Intimation by Letter to Mr. *Mathew*, *How he himself had likewise been Cheated of divers less Sums, and recovered*

recovered them again by Composition: And that his Knave was still in a Flourishing Condition at Lichfield; *and he might probably be the same Man.*

Mr. *Mathew*, upon this Intelligence, quickly posted down to *Lichfield*: Beset the House over Night where *Robert* and *Mary* lodg'd: The next Morning *Mary* was soon taken, and *Robert* also, after above an Hours search, was pull'd out from under a Heap of Furz in a Corner of the Cellar.

They both immediately confess'd the Fact; and *Robert* would fain have stopp'd Mr. *Mathew*'s Mouth, as he had done Mr. *Olds*, with the small Relicks of his ill-gotten Wealth.

But that not sufficing for a Sum so considerable, *Robert* stoutly denied all again, and defy'd him to do his worst: Whereupon they were both clapp'd up in *Lichfield* Gaol.

During this Time, News was come to the Secretaries Office at *Whitehall*, of the aforesaid Violations on the Post-Office at *St. Albans*; and that the Persons Offending were in Custody at *Lichfield*. Whereupon the Right Honorable the Earl of *Shrewsbury*, then Principal Secretary of State, granted a Warrant to Mr. *Legatt*, the King's Messenger, to bring

them up to Town, as being accus'd for dangerous Practices against the Government: The Persons abused by the former Forgeries giving their Consent that they should be so removed.

Mr. *Legatt* brought them up, laid them first in the *Gatehouse* in *Westminster*; whence, by a Warrant of the Lord Chief Justice, they were removed into *London*, and lodg'd, safely (one would have thought,) in *Newgate*.

To *Newgate* they had directly steer'd their Course the greatest part of their Lives; and thus at last wrought their Way thither *per varios Casus, per tot Discrimina*. There they were Try'd and Condemn'd for these Forgeries, and underwent again the Punishment of the Pillory; he being Fin'd for one Fault 100 Marks, for the other 100 Marks; and she 20 Marks.

If my Reader shall ask, *Why* Robert *was found Guilty of no more than two of these Cheats?* It was, Because there was no other Proof against him for the rest, but the Confession of *Mary*, who plainly confessed him to be the Author of all. But that, it seems, in Law, is not Evidence sufficient, because they supposed her to be his Wife; 'twas pity the

Judges

Judges and Jury had not known how little she was his Lawful Wife.

However, in *Newgate* they continued above two Years for want of Payment of these Fines, till the 25 of *May* last, when his Fines were paid: I suppose his Wifes Fine was Discharg'd too. For they both came forth in Triumph, and New Cloaths on that Day, with the *Association* in their Hands; after they had prevail'd with *Blackhead* to steal it in, and steal it out of my Chimney.

Thus, according to the Fashion, I have given a True Pourtraict of these Precious Evidences of a New Plot. My next Business will be to exemplifie all this more largely, by Authentick Proofs: Which, if I mistake not, I shall do so unquestionably, that none shall be able to disbelieve what I say against *Young*, but such as can believe what *Young* has said against me.

But first I will dispatch *Blackhead:* Touching whom I will only give a Copy of the Record of the Sessions at the *Old Bayley*, where he was Condemn'd for Forgery.

London

London ff. Deliberat' Gaol' Dominor' Regis & Regin' de Newgate tent' pro Civitat' London, apud Justice-Hall in le Old Bayly London, die Jovis (scil.) 15° die Januarii, Anno Regni Will' & Mar' nunc Regis & Regin' Angl' prim' &c.

Felix Don Lewis,
Thomas Patrick,
Steph. Blackhead,

Convict' pro fabricand' & publicand' falsum Script' Obligator' in Nomine cujusd' Thom' Faulkener pro summ' 60 l. ponantur & quilibet eor' ponatur supra Pillor' uno die in Cornhil prope Excamb' London ab hora undecima ante Merid' usq; ad hor' prim' post Merid' ejus diei: Et quilibet eor' habeat un' aur' ibid' abscis' & quod quilibet eor' habeat & sustineat imprisonament' in Gaol' de Newgate per spatium unius anni integri sine Bal' vel Manucaptur' juxta form' Statut' ejusd'

By this it appears, *Blackhead* and his two Companions were Convicted of Cheating one Mr. *Faulkener* of 60 *l.* by a falſe Bill or Bond; and were Condemn'd to ſtand in the Pillory in *Cornhil* near the *Exchange* for two Hours; To loſe each of them an Ear; And to continue Priſoners for Twelve Months without Bail or Mainprize in *Newgate*: Where, no doubt, that Intimacy between *Blackhead* and *Young* was contracted, which had been ſo fatal to me, had not God marvellouſly defeated their Conſpiracy againſt me.

Having thus for the preſent rid my Hands of *Blackhead*, I proceed next to *Young*. And the firſt Scene of his Villanies, that have come to my Knowledge, having been in *Ireland*, I will now give certain Demonſtration of the Particulars, out of the Original Papers themſelves: Which ſeem to me, to deſcribe the Caytiff ſo plainly, that I need only ſet them down in their Order, without any Comment of mine upon them.

The principal Crimes I have already Objected againſt him in *Ireland*, were his Marrying a ſecond Wife, whilſt his firſt was alive: His Counterfeiting Certificates for Deacons Orders: His entirely Forging of his Prieſts

Prieſts Orders; and his Feigning the Knowledge of a Dangerous Plot in that Kingdom, wherein he would make out, that divers great Perſons were engag'd.

There are alſo ſeveral others of his Rogueries, ſuch as his having a Baſtard by a Kitchen-Wench at *Caſtle-Reah*, whilſt he was a ſhort time Curate there: His lewd Life, and Cheating divers People of Money by Counterfeit Bills at *Tallogh*, where he was alſo ſometimes Curate: His running away with another Mans Horſe, when he was forc'd to flee thence for his other Pranks; and the like. All theſe, and more ſuch will come in as by the by; and it will be enough for me only to give my Reader this Notice, to mark them in the Papers I am going to produce: The Method of which ſhall be this.

Firſt, He ſhall have *Robert Young*'s general Character, in a Letter from the preſent Lord Archb. of *Dublin*, and another from the Lord Biſhop of *Ferns* and *Leighlin*; both written ſo long ago as the Year 1683: Whilſt he was only under ſuſpicion at *Lambeth*; and before he had enter'd upon ſo many Vile Practices in *England*.

In theſe Letters he is even then deſcribed

to

to be *as wicked a Lyar as the little Carmelite Fryer* Moor, *and to be as very a Rogue as the Spaniſh Wits have fancied their* Guſman. Who the Carmelite Fryar was, I know not; *Guſman* is ſufficiently known. But in the Sequel it will appear, that our Rogue has far outdone the very Spaniſh Romance of theirs.

Secondly, He ſhall have the Lord Biſhop of *Raphoe Hopkins*'s Letter to the Lord Biſhop of *Kilmore*, when *R. Young* was apprehended in that Dioceſs under the Name of *Robert Hopkins*; for which Name alſo he ſhew'd his forged Letters of Prieſts Orders, upon his Examination by the ſaid Biſhop, which ſhall alſo follow.

Thirdly, Here are the Copies of the Original Certificates confirming the Truth of both his Marriages.

Fourthly, Here are divers Letters of *Robert Young*'s own Hand, when he was impriſoned at *Cavan*, and in danger of his Life for having two Wives.

1. A Letter to one Juſtice *Waldram*; to offer him a Bribe if he would take Bail for him.

2. Another Letter to the Lord Biſhop of *Kilmore*, confeſſing ſome of his Knaveries, but ſolemnly denying his having married two Wives.

Next, Here is a Letter to *Roger Yeabſly*, Brother to his firſt Wife *Ann Yeabſly*, alias *Apſly*.

Then another to *George Yeabſly* her Father; Then two Letters to her ſelf.

In all theſe he confeſſes his two Marriages: however propoſes to her and her Brother, a way to ſave his Life by forſwearing themſelves; that they ſhould get a Certificate at *Cork*, ſigned by a publick Notary; that *Ann Yeabſly* was really married to one *Robert Young*, and that *Roger* her Brother was preſent at the Marriage, and that then they ſhould both come to *Cavan*, and, upon his Tayal, deny that he was the Man; and if they did him this Service, he promiſed, with horrible Imprecations upon himſelf, that he would only ſtay to receive *Mary Hutt* his ſecond Wife's Portion, and then run away with *Ann Yeabſly*, his firſt Wife, into *England*.

Laſtly, To compleat all, I will produce two of his Letters to his ſecond Wife *Mary Hutt*, the one after he had fled out of the Dioceſe of *Kilmore*; the other after he had got to *Iniſkillin* out of *Cavan* Goal.

The firſt is full of the like blaſphemous Curſes and Execrations upon himſelf, if ever he was married to any other Woman but her; there-

therefore inviting her to come and relieve him: with dreadful Promiſes and Vows of never forſaking her.

In the ſecond, to ſay nothing of his impudent Reviling of the Lord Biſhop of *Kilmore*, he deſires her to ſteal away from her Friends to him, and to bring the Bond with her; (a true one, without doubt) to bring alſo all the Money ſhe could get, and to be ſure to pay no body; which was accordingly done, and ſo with her he fled, and took Sanctuary in *England*.

A Letter from Dr. Foley, *containing part of a Letter from the preſent* Lord Archbiſhop of Dublin, *concerning* Robert Young; *written in the Year* 1683. *to the* Lord Archbiſhop *of* Canterbury.

May it pleaſe Your Grace, *Tunbridge, June* 27. 1683.

LAſt night I receiv'd a Letter from my Lord Archbiſhop of *Dublin*, concerning Mr. *Young*; part of it runs thus:

'If he be *Robert Young* whom I degraded, he is the veriеſt 'Villain alive: He has now, or had when I knew him, ſeveral 'Wives living. A notorious Cheat, has counterfeited ſeveral Hands 'and Seals, by which he has deceived Men of Money, and *ſtolen* 'into Credit, and Holy Orders. He has been in ſeveral Gaols, 'as namely *Lifferd*, where he was laid up by the Biſhop of *Re-* 'phoe, now *Derry*, who is going now for *London*: and if you

'can procure him to see him, I am confident he remembers
'him well enough. He was long in *Cavan* Goal, and to be try'd
'for his Life; where I got, and have by me, very many of his
'Papers, which would enable any Man to write the *Scotchman's*
'*Life*, which I think would transcend the *Spanish Rogue*. For
'fear he should hang in his Gown, by the Advice of the *Lord*
'*Primate*, I degraded him for the least of his Villanies; be-
'cause the *Canon* was express, and he guilty, as was prov'd, of
'Marrying without License. In brief, he is a notorious wicked
'Man, and so well furnish'd with the necessary Instruments of
'it, that I think *Fryer Moor*, the late Convert, cannot exceed
'him in Lying. He is a black swarthy Man, of a suspicious
'Countenance. He has several Names. He assum'd mine in
'some places; *Hopkins's* at *Raphoe*; and was here lately by the
'Name of *Brown*: but hearing that I was here, I suppose, made
'off again. The last Wife he married was one *Simon Hutt's*
'Daughter of *Cavan*. I send you the inclos'd, which I pray
'reserve for me. 'Tis a Letter he wrote to his second Wife, after
'he fled from me. Keep the Letter for me; I send it, because I
'am mightily of Opinion he is the Man. Here is another Let-
'ter to his former Wife, *Ann Yeabsly*, at the same time; by
'which you will be satisfied that *Robert Young* is a very *ingenious*
'person, and a man of *deep Contrivance*. Had he been in time
'and place, he would have made an excellent *Evidence*; and
'had that Trade gone on, I had doubtless been in a *Plot*; for
'he declar'd he had a *Plot* to discover, in which some *Noblemen*
'and several *Bishops* were concern'd. I am confident I had been
'one; and the Bishop of *Waterford* (whose Hand and Seal he
'counterfeited to me, and the Bishop of *Elphin*) another; from
'whom he pretended Orders, and the Bishop disown'd upon
'my Letter to him.

Dublin, *June* 2. 1683. Thus far the Archbishop.

I send inclos'd to your Grace the two Letters, which my Lord sent me, and beg your Grace will please to keep them by you, till I can wait on you for them; because he desires to have them again. I am bold to say, That your Grace will hereafter be a little suspicious of Clergy-men who come out of *Ireland*, without better Testimonials; and that it will be for the Honour

Honour of our Clergy and University, that wicked and ignorant Men, who pretend to be of them, and are not, be animadverted on by Your Grace, with some severity. I beg your Grace's Blessing, and am,

Your Grace's, &c.

Sam. Foley.

A Letter from the Lord Bishop *of* Ferns *and* Leighlin, *now Archbishop of* Cashells, *to Dr.* Foley, *concerning the same* Robert Young; *written in the Year* 1683.

SIR, *Dublin, June* 2.

ACcording to your desire, I waited on my Lord Archbishop of *Dublin*, to enquire of His Grace concerning one *Young*, whom he degraded for several notorious Crimes, as having two Wives, counterfeiting the Archbishop of *Cashel*'s Hand to the Bishop of *Killaloe*, for his being made Deacon; which the Bishop (not discovering the Cheat) did; and then his Counterfeiting the Bishop of *Clogher*'s Hand for the Order of Priesthood, which he never had: He went likewise under several Names, and was in several Goals, particularly in that at *Cavan* for a great while. The Man, my Lord says, is about his Grace's own Stature, that is, somewhat tall; neither lean nor corpulent; of a pretty long, black, ill Visage; his Hair, if his own, is black, thin, pretty long, and hangs flag without any Curls. He is a *Scotchman*, about 27 or 28 years of Age; and will lye as fast as the little *Carmelite Fryer* did. (to use His Grace's own expression.) And this is all I can say of him. I am,

Your, &c.

Narcissus Ferns & Leighlin.

A Letter

A Letter to the Lord Biſhop of Kilmore, *from Biſhop* Hopkins, *then Lord Biſhop of* Raphoe; *written in the Year* 1680. *concerning* Robert Young's *Apprehenſion in his Dioceſe, under the Name of* R. Hopkins.

My Lord, *Raphoe, Nov.* 11. 80.

YOur Lordſhip's to me came very ſeaſonably, that is, one day before Mr. *Young*: and he came very confidently, expecting much kindneſs for Names ſake, for he thought it fit to aſſume mine; and, at his firſt accoſt, thruſt into my hands Letters Dimiſſory, lewdly forg'd, as from the Biſhop of *Killaloo*; with the Seal to them vilely cut, and the Date of *octo die Octobris*. This alone would have given me ſuſpicion of an Impoſture; but being forewarn'd by your Lordſhip, I was certain I had the Man, though he lurk'd under another Name. The Contents of the Letters were the ampleſt form of Commendations, which I keep by me, but ſhall remit when your Lordſhip requires it. I put many croſs Interrogatories to him, till at laſt one Lye ſo contradicted another, that the Man was perfectly confounded, and began to ſpeak Truth. There were two other Juſtices then with me: We took his Examination, a Copy of which I have ſent here incloſed. When I preſs'd him upon the Point of Polygamy, he utterly deny'd it, as indeed it concern'd him; as alſo that he ever was at *Londonderry*, much more that ever he was School-maſter there; and this ſome who were preſent believe to be Truth. Beſides ſome affirm, That, to their knowledge *Sarah Mallon*, who was afterward married to one *Young*, was, upon his deceaſe, married to one Mr. *Laughlin*, a Miniſter in the Dioceſe of *Londonderry*, with whom ſhe now lives. I know not whether he can be ſo well vindicated from others, for your Lordſhips ſpeaks of two or three more. However, his Miſdemeanors and Forgeries were ſo many, that we committed him to the County-Goal, where I hope he will not long continue. For, as at your Lordſhip's deſire I have ſecur'd him, ſo I muſt deſire

deſire that your Lordſhip would ſpeedily take Order to have him ſent where the fulleſt Evidence may be given againſt him. I am

Your Lordſhips, &c.

Ezechiel Raphoe.

The Examination and Confeſſion of *R. Young*, before the Lord Biſhop of *Raphoe* and others, in the Year 1680.

County Donegal.

THE voluntary Examination of R. Young, *late of the Pariſh of* Kildallin, *in the Dioceſs of* Kilmore, *and County of* Cavan, *Clerk, taken at* Raphoe *the* 10*th of* November, 1680, *before the Right Reverend Father in God,* Ezechiel *Lord Biſhop of* Raphoe, Richard Inett *Clerk, and* Matthew Cocken *Eſq; Juſtices of the Peace of the ſaid County of* Donegall.

Who being voluntarily examined, upon Suſpicion of being guilty of ſeveral Forgeries and Miſdemeanors, ſaith, That he was Curate at the ſaid Pariſh of Kildallin *for three Quarters of a Year; that he came thence in* October *laſt; that he had not any Certificate or Diſmiſs from the Biſhop of that Dioceſs; that he confeſſeth the Counterfeiting of Letters dimiſſory from the Lord Biſhop of* Killaloo, *and the Seal and Subſcription thereof are falſe; as alſo the Name of* R. Hopkins *in thoſe Letters Dimiſſory mentioned, he intended to have taken on him; but that his own Name is* Robert Young; *that he was about three Years ſince ordained Deacon by the Biſhop of* Killaloo. *That he is a married Man; and that his Wife's Name is* Hutt, *Daughter to* Simon Hutt, *and is now with her Father in the Town of* Cavan; *that he was never Married before: And ſaith, That he is not guilty of counterfeiting any Letters of Orders; but confeſſeth that he did counterfeit and forge a Letter from one Dr.* Smith *of* Limerick, *to the Biſhop of* Killaloo, *upon which Letter, he ordained the ſaid Examinate Deacon, as aforeſaid, and further ſaith not.*

Robert Young.

Capt. coram nobis
Ezechiel Rapotenſis.
Rich. Inett.
Mat. Cocken.

Copies.

Copies of the Original Certificates and Papers, confirming the Truth of both *Robert Young*'s Marriages, and both his Wives being alive at the ſame time.

The Certificate upon Oath of *George Teahſy*, or *Apſly*, his firſt Wife's Father, concerning *R. Young*'s firſt Marriage, with three other Certificates of his Cheats.

Memorandum. Jan. 17, 1680.

THE Day and Year above written, George Apſly, of the Breedas, in the Pariſh of Arda, in the County if Cork, Yeoman, came before me Richard Pine, one of his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace for the ſaid County, and made Oath, that on, or about the 18th of May laſt was five Years paſt, He, this Deponent, was preſent, and gave his Daughter, Ann Apſly, in Marriage with one Mr. Robert Young, Clerk at Ralph-cormack in the County aforeſaid; and that he ſaw them lawfully joyn'd in Matrimony (Dr. Smith Miniſter) and lived together ſeveral Years afterwards. He afterwards (that is to ſay) about two Years laſt paſt, was Curate under Mr. Francis Beecher, in the Pariſh of Tallogh, in the County of Waterford; and that his Daughter Ann had three Children born and begot by him, and that ſhe (his Daughter) is now living.

George Apſly.

Jurat. coram me R. Pine.
17. Die Jan. Ann. Dom.
1680.

Thom. Neeſham, *Notario publico præſente.*

Jan. 17, 1680.

I Richard Burſt of Tallogh, in the County of Waterford, *Eſq*; do certifie, That (upon peruſal of the within Contents) the within named Robert Young was entertained and licenſed as a Curate in the Pariſh aboveſaid, and afterwards depoſed for Reaſons unknown to me; but did ſoon after

ter (viz.) about Christmas 1679, *feign and counterfeit my Name and Hand-writing to an Acquaintance and Kinsman of mine at* Feather *for seven Pounds* (Mr. Cook *by Name*) *and did by vertue of his other Counterfeit Letter in my Name, receive* (as I am assuredly told) *the Summ of the 7 Pound of one* Henry Russel *of* Clonmell. *The Truth of all which I certifie under my Hand and Seal, the Day and Year above written.*

Richard Burt, *Vice Com.*

Jan. 17, 1680.

I Thomas Elms *of* Tallogh, *in the County of* Waterford, *Felmonger, do certifie, that the aforenamed* R. Young, *on, or about the First of* December 1679, *did hire an Horse, with Bridle and Saddle, to ride to* Cashel, *of me, at the Rate of* 12 d. *per day; all which he hath deceived me of to my great Damage. And I certifie under my Hand the Day and Year aboves aid.*

his
Thomas † Elms.
Mark.

Being Present,

Richard Burt, *Vice Com.* Garnet Roche.
Francis Foulke. Roger Power.
Thom. Needham, *Notarius Publicus.*

The Counterfeit Bill of Mr. *Burts.*

SIR, Tallogh, 17, Dec. 1679.

THE Bearer hereof, Mr. Robert Young, *Minister of our Town, is bound for* Cashel *to the Archbishop, to pay some Money. Therefore I intreat you to do me that great Kindness, as to let him have three Pound, and I will pay you, when you call for it. If you do me this Courtesie, I will requiet you for it. So hoping you will not fail, I rest your loving Friend,*

Richard Burt.

To Mr. *Henry Russel*, Goldsmith
at *Clonmel.*

Decem-

T A

December 18, 79.

Received of Henry Ruſſel *the Summ of three Pound: I ſay, received by me,*

R. Young, *Clerk.*

The Certificate of divers other Perſons, touching *Robert Young*'s Firſt Marriage.

WE whoſe Names are ſubſcribed, do hereby certifie all whom it may concern, that R. Young *(who lately ſupplied the Cure at* Tallogh*) was (as we are credibly informed) married at* Rath-cormack, *by Dr.* William Smith, *to* Ann, *the Daughter of* George Yeabſly, *about five Years ſince; during which time the ſaid* Robert Young *and* Ann *did cohabit or dwell together as Man and Wife at the Houſe of the ſaid* George Yeabſly; *where they had three Children; which ſaid* George Yeabſly, *and* Ann *his Daughter do now dwell at* Monoth, *within four Miles of the Town of* Tallogh. *All which we do certifie this 21ſt Day of* January, 1680.

Thomas Beecher, *Prebend: de* Claſhmore.
Richard Giſt.
Richard Giles.
John Yeabſly.
William Giſt.
William Page.
Thomas Clark.
Richard Burt, *Vice Com.*
George Oburn.
Robert Benger.
Francis Cooper.
Thomas Bateman.

The Crtificate of the Dean of *Kilmore*, concerning *Robert Young*'s Second Marriage with *Mary Hutt.*

I Edward Dixy, *Dean of* Kilmore, *do hereby own and acknowledge, that I married* Robert Young, *formerly Clerk and Curate of* Kildallin, *in the Dioceſe of* Kilmore, *and* Mary Hutt, *Daughter of* Simeon Hutt, *of the Town of* Cavan, *Vintner, on the 1ſt Day of* July *laſt, in the Preſence of the under-named Perſons, and (others) who with my ſelf do hereby certifie the ſame, and ſubſcribe hereunto this 5th of* March, *Ann. Dom.* 1680.

Edw. Dixy, *Decan.* Kilmor.
Hen. Gilloriſt. *Notar. Public.*
Simeon Hutt.
Lettis Hart, *Sen.*
Lettis Hart, *Jun.*
Ann Hollend.
Alexander Makleland.
Thomas Lavender.

A T

At the Request of Mary Young, *alias* Hutt, *we do hereby certifie, that* Robert Young, *in the aboveſaid Certificate mentioned, lieth in the Gaol of* Cavan, *and ſtandeth charged with being the Husband of two Wives, viz.* Mary Hutt, *now reſident in the Corporation of* Cavan, *and one* Ann Abſly, *in the County of* Cork, *unknown to us. And we do hereby deſire ſome of his Majeſties Juſtices of the Peace for the ſaid County of* Cork, *that they will be pleaſed to bind over the ſaid* Ann Abſly, *her Father, and ſome other Perſons, who were preſent at the Inter-marriage of the ſaid* Ann *to the ſaid* Robert Young; *that they may appear the 30th Inſtant, to give their Evidence againſt the ſaid* Robert Young.

Dated at *Cavan*, the 5th of *March*, 1680.

Hump. Perrott, *Vice Com.*
Richard Lewis,
Samuel Tovey,
John Maxwell,
Hen. Waldram, *Sp.* of Cavan.
Mat. Hart.

An Order of the Judges to ſummon *George Young*, his Son Roger, and *Ann Young* his Daughter, to appear at the Aſſizes at *Cavan*, at the Tryal of *Robert Young*.

By his Majeſties Lords Juſtices of the Aſſize for the Province of *Munſter*.

Whereas George Abſly *of* Breedis, *in the Pariſh of* Arda, *in the County of* Cork, *Yeoman*; Roger Abſly *of the ſame, in the ſaid County, Yeoman, Son to the ſaid* George Abſly, *and* Ann Young, *are material Evidences in his Majeſties Behalf, againſt* Robert Young, *now Priſoner in his Majeſty's Goal of the County of* Cavan, *and charged with being married to two Wives, both being alive; theſe are therefore, in his Majeſty's Name, to will and require you,* George Abſly, Roger Abſly, *and* Ann Young, *to appear before his Majeſty's Lord Juſtices of Aſſize for the North-Weſt Circuit of* Ulſter *at* Cavan, *on the 30th Day of this Inſtant, then and there to give your Evidence, in his Majeſty's behalf, againſt the ſaid* Robert Young. *Whereof you may not fail at your Peril.*

Dated at *Cork*, this 17th Day of *March*, 1680.

Hen. Hen.
William Davis.

Robert Young's *Letter to the Lord Biſhop of* Kilmore, *confeſſing his Guilt of ſome Crimes, but denying his double Marriage.*

May it pleaſe your Lordſhip,

HAving deliberately conſider'd the Evils I have really done, and the greater Evils that have been miſ-reported of me to your Lordſhip, I cannot but acknowledge the Juſtice of your Lordſhips Diſpleaſure; and I am now ſo far from making any Defence for the diſingenuous Shifts, my Neceſſities and Fears have put me upon, that I have already been my own Accuſer, and do as much condemn my ſelf as the ſeverest Judge can do. And I hope no Temptation of Secular Advantage ſhal ever hereafter make me ſo far ſwerve from the ſevere Rules of Vertue becoming a Chriſtian and a Clergyman. But thô I am willing in all Humility to ſubmit my ſelf to your Lordſhips Cenſure for what I have done amiſs: Yet I hope your Lordſhips Goodneſs will be my Sanctuary, where I am manifeſtly wrong'd. There are ſo many Perſons of Credit here, that knew the Gentlewoman, that was affirm'd, and (as I hear) ſworn to be my Wife, in theſe Parts; that I doubt not but it wil be made clear to your Lordſhip, that that Report was the Iſſue of Ignorance and Malice; and I hope a little time wil acquit me of what other Reports I ſuffer under in that Matter. But while I am here in Confinement, I am in a manner debarr'd of all Expedients to clear my Innocence, at leaſt to do it ſpeedily. And in the mean while I ſuffer all the Hardſhip of a Goal amongſt People, from whom I can expect no Relief, and at ſo great a diſtance from ſuch as might relieve me, that I can hope for little Comfort from them. May it therefore pleaſe your Lordſhip, ſo far to favour my Innocence in this Matter, as that I may be brought to Hearing before your Lordſhip; where, if it appear that I have any other Wife but her with whom I have liv'd in your Lordſhips Dioceſe; I ſhal quietly ſubmit my ſelf to the Severity of the Laws; if not, I hope my Penitence and Reformation may in time mitigate your Lordſhips juſt Diſpleaſure for the confeſſed Faults of

Lifferd, Novem. 26, 1680.

Your Lordſhips moſt Humble Suppliant,

Robert Young.

A Letter

A Letter from Robert Young *to Juſtice* Waldram, *offering him a Bribe to let him be bayl'd.*

May it pleaſe your Worſhip,

MY Mind I thought your Worſhip underſtood, therefore if your Worſhip does not underſtand what I mean (as I ſuppoſe you do) I wil diſcover it to your Worſhip. For, may it pleaſe your Worſhip, I have not any to make my Complains to but to your Worſhip. Therefor I moſt humbly beg your Worſhip to take Bayl, and I will give you 40 s. Moreover, my Brother will bring a Leter from Captain *Sanderſon*, that my Brother is ſufficient Bayl, and that Captain *Sanderſon* is ſatisfyed to take him, provided I get any other: And I, not being * *Acquented* with any in theſe Parts, fears I cannot procure another eaſily; but if your Worſhip will take any other Bondſman with my Brother, I will give you the aforeſaid Summ of Money, before you take Bayl: And I will take my Oath to your Worſhip, that I will not tell it to any body. Dear Mr. *Waldram*, do me that Charity, for I ly in a ſad Condition; Indeed you will do me a ſingular Kindneſs, and ſhew a great deal of Charity in ſo doing: for I know if your Worſhip pleaſe, it lys in your Hands. I deſire your Worſhip not to diſcover any thing to the Bearer or any other. I intreat your Worſhip to write your Worſhips Mind to me by the Bearer, that I may ſend him for Captain *Sandersons* Letter to your Worſhip. So I reſt,

Your Worſhips moſt Humble Suppliant to command,

Robert Young.

A Letter from Robert Young *to* Roger Yeabſly *his Brother-in-Law, to come and ſave his Life by forſwearing himſelf.*

Dear Brother, *Cavan, Feb.* 5, 1680.

COme along to me with your Siſter, for I have fallen under a ſad Buſineſs, and I will looſe my Life if you and your Siſter does not come to deny that I am not the Man. For Chriſts Sake, Dear Brother, come along with her, and I hope you ſhal not be the worſe for it; for my Life lyes in my Wifes and your Hands: So that I am certain

certain you will do what lyes in you; if you do not come, I wil be put to Death; but if you and my Wife comes, you may have many a merry Day with me hereafter. So I reſt,

Your Loving Brother,

Robert Young.

A Letter from Robert Young *out of* Cavan *Gaol, to his Firſt Wife,* Ann Yeabſly, *to the ſame purpoſe.*

WHen I left you laſt, I came to *Belturbet* in the County of *Cavan*, where I ſerv'd as Curate for the ſpace of half a Year, and had 35 *l.* a Year. Upon which I ſpoke to my Brother-in-Law to bring you down to me, but he ſeem'd unwilling to go ſo far. At which time I uſed too oft, which is my Sorrow this Day, at one *Simon Hutts* in *Cavan*, curſed be the Time that ever I went there. Whereupon *Simon Hutts* proffer't me 150 *l.* with his Daughter; and he getting me Drunk one Night, I was married to her, and was ready to cut my own Throat the next Day; but I ſeeing what a Priminary I had by my Ludneſs brought my ſelf in, I ſaw that it could not be avoided: whereupon I reſolved only to ſtay till I had gott the Money promis'd, and then to come to you, my dear Honey, and ſo for you and I to go for *England*, where we ſhould never be known. But my Journey was ſtopt, for *Simon Hutts* heard ſomething of my Marriage to you, before the Portion was paid, and ſo ſent up to know whether it was ſo or no. And ſo the Meſſenger brought word, that one *Robert Young* a Miniſter, was married to one *Ann Yeabſly*, Daughter to *George Yeabſly*, near *Tallogh*: But for all that the Meſſenger brought, they knew not whether I was the Man or no. So that it may be deny'd with ſafety, to preſerve my Life. For they have clapt me in Goale upon Suſpition, where I lye in a deplorable Condition, and no body to help me. Therefore, Dear Honey, for Chriſts ſake come to me, and bring my Brother *Roger* along with you; for the Aſſizes is the 6th of *March*; where I will be tried for my Life, and there is not any in the World can preſerve it; only you, My Dear Honey, if you come and ſay that I am not the Man, you were married to, and bring my Brother *Roger* along with you to juſtifie the ſame; I wil be ſet at Liberty; and then I ſhal get what Money is promiſed, and go over to *England* with you. And I wiſh that I may never thrive in this World, if ever I leave you hereafter; for I care no more for this Huſy, than for the Durt under my Shoo.

Shoo. O Curſe of God light on me, if ever I leave you hereafter, if you prove ſo real to me, as to come and deny that I am none of your Husband! for there is no way to ſave my Life but that. I wiſh that I may never ſee the Kingdome of God, if I do not prove as real, conſtant and loving Husband to you, as ever Man did to Woman. Dear Heart, I know that I have committed a grievous and abominable Fault; but I may blam bad Company and my Drink for it. Therefore, for Chriſts Sake, Dear Honey, forgive me, and come along with the Bearer and clear me. And the Curſe of God light on me, if I prove falſe to you after ſaving my Life. For now my Life lyes in your Hands. I will earneſtly repent for what I have done, and I hope God Almighty will forgive me. If I had 100 Wives, it is you alone that is my lawfull Wife, and ſhal be to my dying Day. For Chriſts Sake come and ſay that I was not the Man you were married to. I ſay, Dear Heart, come along with the Bearer, and bring my Brother *Roger* along with you. If you do not clear me, I will be put to Death; and is it not better for you to come and tell a Ly to preſerve your Husbands Life, and to enjoy him as long as you live, and I lives; than for to have him put to Death, and never to ſee him again? And this I will aſſure you, that there will be an Order from my Lord Chief Juſtice to bring you down againſt the Aſſizes: So that I ſent the Meſſenger to prevent that, by giving you timely Notice; for you may come and ſtay in my Brother-in-Laws Houſe, untill ſuch time as we do get our Buſineſs done. And I will go with you unknown to any body. So hoping you will come and ſave the Life of your loving Husband; I reſt, Dear Heart,

Your Loving Husband, and till Death,

Cirun, Feb. 5. 1680. Robert Young.

Here I have ſent you the Enclos'd to my Father, and my Brother *Roger*.

Pray preſent my Duty to my Mother, and my Love to my Brother *John*, and *William*, *Haſkins*, and my Siſter *Elſe*; and my Bleſſing to my poor Child, if ſhe be alive.

A Letter

A Letter to her Father George Yeabsly *from* Robert Young, *proposing the means how he might gett off by his Son and Daughters Perjuring themselves.*

Dear Father, Cavan, *Feb.* 5, 1680.

I Have declared the Reasons and Causes of my Marriage in my Wifes Leter, which you may peruse; therefore Dear Father and Mother forgive me, for it was a folly of Youth-hood, and if you come to prosecute to put me to death, I cannot help it. But if you give your consent to my Wife to preserve my Life, this shal be a warning to me so long as I live. O, Dear Father, you know that *David*, a Man after Gods own Heart, was guilty of both Murder and Adultry. And therefore, Dear Father preserve my Life, if you please, And I protest to God Almighty, I will never forsake my poor Wife, your Daughter, so long as Life continues; for it is she that is my lawfull Wife. And therefore for Christ's sake, Dear Father, send my dear Wife and my Brother *Roger*, to clear me by the same means that I have prescrib'd in my Wifes Leter. If I were clear'd I could gett Mony enough to do you and I good, as the Bearer can tell you. After I am clear'd I will carry my Wife and my Brother *Roger* down to se my Grany, whom I dare not as yet write to. If you have a mind to save my Life, do not come your self; but send my Wife and my Brother *Roger* down to me. And go to *Tallow* and gett a Certificate drawn, and have it sign'd by Mr. *Burt* and Mr. *Neesham*, that *Ann Yeabsly* is your Daughter, and that she was Married to one *Robert Young*, that they may believe she is the same Woman; and that *Roger Yeabsly* is your Son, and that he was standing by when *Robert Young* was Married to your Daughter; and if you have a mind to save my Life, they must deny that I am the Man: For there is no way to preserve my Life, but that. Write also to *Simon Hutt* in *Cavan*, that you would a comt to se if it were the same person, to prosecute him, but only you fell sick; and therefore you sent your Son and Daughter to prosecute, if it be the same Man. So having no more at present to write, I Rest,

Your Loving Son

Robert Young.

My Duty to my Mother, and Love to my Brother *John*, and Sister *Else*, and my Brother *Haskins*, and all the rest of our Friends in general.

A Letter

A Letter to his Second Wife, Mary Hutt, *denying his first Marriage with terrible Curses.*

O, my Dear Heart,

YOU know it was for Love of you that I brought this misery upon my self, God Almighty help me; I was fully resolv'd to tell you the contents of all my Letters, whenever I could have the opportunity of speaking to you: For my Landlady can tell you, that I was fully resolv'd to shew you the Letters, but could not, by reason I could not gett speaking to you. O, my Dear, have I thrown my self for the Love of you into all this misery, and you to serve me thus: Surely if you have the Heart of a Stone you will not do it. O, if I had but only you here, I would a reckon'd all this nothing; but if I be requited thus, I cannot help it. O, I wish to Christ I were Ten foot under Ground, and then you would have your hearts desire as I perceive, Those Leters that I write, was only for that Woman to come and clear me; for I was afraid that if I had writ any otherwise, she would not come. But upon those Leters I was certain she would a com't and clear'd me. And then I was in good hopes to have enjoy'd you again. If I had had my liberty and your consent, I would quickly have brought you out of all your misery. I write purposely to that Woman against you, for to have her come and clear me; which if she did me justice, I am certain she cannot do to the contrary. I wish I may never leave this place alive, if ever I was Married to any other Woman upon the Face of the Earth, but you. But if you wil be pleas'd to give me a meeting, I will satisfy you why I write so to that Woman; and you wil find it so at long runing; tho' I dare not say that my Soul is my own here. For Christs sake take pity on me, and let me not starve in this deplorable condition. For Gods sake pay my Landlady but only for one Months Diet unknown to any; and if I do not prove what I said formerly to be truth, then never pay another week for me again. My dear Heart, for Christs sake do not heed these Leters, for I write them only in design to gett my Liberty, and to enjoy your sweet company again. God let me never se the Face of God Almighty, if there was any other design in it. You may believe me a poor miserable Soul I hope you will take all this to consideration, for if I had but only your favour, I did not care for any thing. but if not, pray put an end to my days. I wish that I may never se the Kingdome of God and Christ, if ever I was Married to any Woman but your self. Indeed I should not take such an Oath as this, if I found my self guilty, and knowing not how long I have to live. O,

my dear Soul wil you believe any body before me, I have ſeen the day, you would not believe any before mee, but now it ſeems the caſe is alter'd. I wil take the Sacrament to morrow, and take it on my death if I were going to dye, that thoſe leters were write upon no other deſign; O wiſh that I may never ſe the face of my Saviour, If ever I was married to any other Woman but your ſelf. Surely you may believe me in this ſad Condition, and know not how long I have to live. If you will but only do me the Charity as to come and ſpeak to me, I will give you full Satisfaction why I write to *Abſly*: If you remember, I told you ſomewhat of that Woman before I left *Belturbit*. O my dear Heart! Will you not do me the Charity as to give me a Meeting, that I may ſatisfie you? O! will you my Dear, leave me comfortleſs in this ſad Condition. God knows I ly Weeping and Writing. I thought I was well enough ſo long as I had you on my ſid; but now it ſeems all Comfort is fleed from me. O wil not Death make an end of this Miſery! if not, I wil if I can conveniently. If you give me any Comfort, I will endeavour to clear my ſelf, and take a good Heart ſtill: But if not, I wiſh they would put me out of this Miſery. For I am ſure I ſhal die with a clear Conſcience. If you forſake me, I have none to take my Part; but if not, I hope you and I ſhal have joyful Days for all this. So hoping you will pity my Condition, I reſt, Dear Soul,

Your Loving Husband till Death,

Robert Young.

I hope you wil ſend me an Anſwer by the Bearer, what you are reſolv'd to do. If you will pay for my Diet unknown to any, my Landlady wil ſay that ſhe took my Word.

Another Letter to her from Iniskillin, *after he was got out of* Cavan *Gaol.*

My Dear Heart,

I Am ſafely arriv'd at *Iniskillin*, and am well at preſent, and cares not for all your barking Dogs at *Belturbit* and *Cavan* both. Let them do what they can, I care no more for them than I care for the fillieſt Dog in the Street. But as to that, I will leave it off at preſent. I hope you are mindful of your Promiſe to me in *Harris's* Garden, made to me there. Here I have ſent the Bearer purpoſely for you, and

and I give him 6 s. for going for you. Dear Heart, do not fail but come along with him to me, for my Life lyes where you do: If I had your Company, I did not care for all the World. Dear Heart, I say again, come to me, for I will assure you have as many Tears from my Eyes, as there are Letters in this Letter from your poor Husband. Therefore, Dear Heart, if ever you intend to se me alive, come to me now; if you do not, I will make this Town my Burial place. I hope you will take no bodys Counsell in this case but your own. If your Friends will not let you come to me, pray (if you have any Love for me) steal away to come to me. Send all your Linnen and Cloaths of Woollen, and my Cloaths also out before you, and seal all that you cannot bring along with you; and be sure not to pay a Farthing to any body, but keep it your self; take my Counsel, I desire you. Dear Heart, you and the Bearer may contrive the Business I suppose, and be sure bring the Bond or Mony along with you, for you know I have but little Money when I pay the Bearer. I could a had a Place, but only it is too nigh your Bishop, that Dog. Don't fear, for I will soon get a Place if I would look for it. So hoping you wil come to your poor Husband, I rest, Dear Heart,

Your Loving Husband, till Death do us part,

Robert Young.

Pray do not trust any thing with the Bearer, but come your self.

Dear Heart, Be sure to bring the Bond along with you, if you love me; and all the Papers that you find in my Box. I hope you will not fail to perform all that I have spoken.

All these Letters of *Robert Young*'s, I have set down just as I found them, under his own Hand, in his own way of Spelling, as I shall do the rest of his which are to follow. And perhaps some Reader or other, who is more acute in such Matters than I am, will shrewdly guess thereby, and by divers unusual

Words and Expreſſions, and his Manner of Syntax, what Country man he is.

That which next follows, is another of his diſingenuous Shifts (as he modeſtly calls them) performed alſo in *Ireland*: I mean his Prophane Invaſions of Holy Orders; that of Deacon, by deluding the Lord Biſhop of *Killaloo* with Forg'd Certificates; that of Preſbyter, by his own Sacrilegious Self-ordination.

To prove this, I ſhall produce alſo the undoubted Evidence of Original Writings; wherein, as in thoſe foregoing, and indeed in moſt of the other Papers I have by me concerning him, it may eaſily be obſerved, that beſides the main Crime they chiefly intend to prove, there is alſo here and there a caſual Mention made of divers other Steps towards his preſent Pitch of Perfection.

And particularly in this whole Cheat, relating to his Orders, it may be obſerv'd, that he had always ready divers Sets of Teſtimonials, Letters Dimiſſory, and Letters of Orders fitted to his ſeveral Names, and pretended to be from ſeveral Biſhops. But let the Papers ſpeak for themſelves.

A Letter

A Letter from one Dr. Nicholſon *of* Caſtle-Reah, *to the Lord Biſhop of* Kilmore, *concerning* Robert Young's *forging Certificates.*

Caſtle-Reah, *in the County of* Roſcommon,
My Lord, Decemb. 22, 1680.

I Receiv'd a Letter from your Lordſhip concerning Mr. *Young*; I am glad he is ſecur'd. Upon better Recollection of his Doings, I remember exactly that he produc'd Letters of Prieſts Orders here, not from your Lordſhip (as I at firſt ſuppos'd) but from the Biſhop of *Killaloo*, and that by the pretended Recommendation of the Archbiſhop of *Caſhell*; under whoſe Hand he ſhew'd a Letter here, directed as to the Biſhop of *Killaloo*; and another from the Biſhop of *Killaloo*, in anſwer to that; and to acquaint the Archbiſhop that he had ordained Mr. *Young*; ſeveral others here ſaw his Letters. I hope his Forgery and Sacrilegious Invaſion of the Prieſthood will receive due Puniſhment for the neceſſary Diſcouragement of others of the like Impudence. I am,

Your Lordſhip's, &c.

Edward Nicholſon.

A Letter from the ſame Dr. Nicholſon *to the Lord Biſhop of* Elphin, *concerning* Robert Young's *hainous Miſcarriages.*

My Lord, Caſtle-Reah, Octob. 11. 1680.

I Do verily believe that Mr. *Young* was never Ordain'd by your Lordſhip, nor any elſe: He produc'd Parchments in this Dioceſe from the Biſhop of *Kilmore*, as Ordain'd Presbyter by him, and that by Mediation of a Letter from the Archbiſhop

ſhop of *Caſhell*, which he ſhew'd me here, and I ſuſpected it Counterfeit: as alſo I did his Letter of Orders: for which Suſpicions, if I had had as great Evidences then, as I had ſince, I ſhould have ſeiz'd his Papers; but being then glad to be rid of him, I diſpatch'd him, without giving him the Interruption to meddle with his Papers. As to the Character of him I am ſure he was a moſt unconſcionable ignorant Villain; he got a Baſtard here by a Kitchin-maid at the Inn he firſt lodg'd at; which he own'd himſelf to me; and being needy, I beſtow'd on him 40 s. more than I ow'd him, to carry him away. Yet when he went to *Dublin*, he counterfeited Letters under my Hand to my Brother, a Merchant there, to get 50 s. worth of Goods; and did alſo the ſame for Mr. *Dalton* to his Son-in-Law in *Dublin*. Both the Letters were return'd to us by the Poſt, and we never heard from him ſince. But we hear he had a Wife living, and another before her, and was ſeeking for a third very buſily. We have heard ſo much of him ſince, that we all think it great pity he was not rather hang'd, than employ'd to ſerve at the Altar. I am certain, if any conſcientious Perſon that could apprehend him, would make it their Deſign to rid the Church of ſuch a Scandal, he would ſufficiently appear to have deſerv'd that, if not to be quite pack'd out of the World. And I aſſure your Lordſhip, 'tis no Grudge at his Perſon, but perfect Charity and Zeal for the Church, which forces me to give this Teſtimony of him, in obedience of your Lordſhips Commands, which require my Character of him. And if your Lordſhip could be a Means of preventing him from further proceeding in the Profanation of Holy Things and Offices, it would no doubt be acceptable Service to God and his Church; which is only ſubmitted to your Lordſhips Wiſdom, by

Your Lordſhips, &c.

Edw. Nicholſon.

A Letter

A Letter from one Mr. Fletcher *to the Lord Biſhop of* Kilmore *to the ſame purpoſe.*

My Lord, *James Town, Octob.* 19. 1680.

I Suppoſe my Lord of *Elphin* will be particular with your Lordſhip in the matter of Mr. *Young*; Mr. *Cook*, who was Surrogate of *Elphin* Dioceſe, tells me, he had never Letters of Orders from that Biſhop. It is certain he fled from his Cure at *Caſtle-Reah*, having got a Wench with Child: And Fame ſays he has two Wives beſides the laſt. I am,

Your Lordſhips, &c.

Ben. Fletcher.

A Letter from the Lord Biſhop *of* Waterford *to the Lord Biſhop of* Kilmore, *concerning* Robert Young.

My Lord, *Waterford, Feb.* 5. 1680.

I Should have ſent your Lordſhip an earlier account of your laſt to me concerning *Young*; But I did deſire to inform my ſelf the beſt I could for your better ſatisfaction of his having a Wife in theſe parts, and being Chaplain to the Earl of *Barrimore*, and Tutor to his Son. As to the former, you will receive here enclos'd a Certificate from the High Sheriff of the County, and ſeveral of the beſt of the Inhabitants of *Tallogh*, to which I refer you; and as to the latter, I have ſpoken with ſome Perſons of Quality from thoſe parts, who tell me plainly, That *Young* was never Chaplain to the Earl of *Barrimore*, nor went Tutor to his Son to *Oxford*; for his Son was never there. But for farther ſatisfaction, I have imploy'd a Friend to the Earl of *Barrimore* himſelf for his Certificate, which every day I now expect. This *Young*'s Rogueries and Forgeries muſt needs redound

dound to the Great discredit of the Church: And I think your Lordship has done very well in taking up his pretended Letters of Ordination. I humbly intreat you farther, That you would be pleas'd to take up that Forg'd Testimonial he shew'd you in my name; and to send it to me, who am

Your Lordships, &c.

He. Waterford *and* Lismore.

Robert Young's *Counterfeit Letter from the Lord Bishop of* Waterford *to himself; together with his Forg'd Testimonials from the same Bishop.*

SIR, *Waterford, March* 30. 1680.

ACcording to your expectation, I have sent you the inclos'd, and truly am sorry you left my Diocese; but however I will be kind to you, if any thing offers it self worthy your acceptation. So concluding with my Blessing to you, I rest

Your &c.

H. Waterford *and* Lismore.

Locus Sigilli, *These are to Certify, That* Mr. Robert Young, Cler', *and Master of Arts, (whose Testimonials from the University of* Oxford, *in* Magdalene College *I have often perus'd) is a Man whom I have known from a Child; and knows him to be of a Sober, and Religious, yea, a Singular Life and Conversation. Who behav'd himself in my Diocese, as becometh a Labourer in God's Vineyard. And as concerning whose Parts, I my self has often sounded them, and knows him to be a Singular Scholar; yea, I may say, as well qualified for the Function as any within my Episcopal See, which is not all I have to speak in his Commendation. All this I do certify, as witness my Hand and Seal this* 30th *day of* March, Ann. Dom. 1680.

H. Waterford *and* Lismore.

A Letter

A Letter from the Lord Biſhop of Waterford, *to the Lord Biſhop of* Kilmore, *and another from the Earl of* Barrimore, *touching* Robert Young's *never having been the Earls Chaplain, or Tutor to his Son as he pretended.*

My Lord, *Waterford, Feb.* 18. 1680.

I Acquainted your Lordſhip in my laſt, that I daily expected an Account from the Earl of *Barrimore*, concerning *Young*'s pretended Chaplainſhip to his Lordſhip; I do now ſend your Lordſhip here enclos'd an account thereof from the Earl; and do earneſtly intreat that your Lordſhip will be pleas'd to take up that Forg'd Certificate *Young* ſhew'd you in my Name; and to ſend it to me. Our Poſt will not give me leave to write any more, but that I am

Your Lordſhips, &c.

Hen. Waterford *and* Liſmore.

My Lord, *Caſtlelyons, Feb.* 11. 1680.

I Receiv'd a Letter from Mr. *Dalton*, wherein he gives me an account of one *Young*, who has impudently and falſly call'd himſelf my Chaplain, and my Son *Buttevant*'s Tutor. I never ſaw him but once that he brought me a Letter from the now High Sheriff of your County, to recommend him to Colonel *Witenham* (late deceas'd) at *Caſtletown*: If he had been never ſo much my Chaplain, if he fail'd in the leaſt part of that Duty he owes your Lordſhip, he ſhould not have been own'd by, my very good Lord,

To the Lord Biſhop of Waterford.

Your Lordſhips, &c.

Barrimore.

A Letter from the Biſhop of Waterford, *to the Biſhop of* Kilmore *touching* Robert Young.

My Lord, *Waterford, Octob.* 11. 1680.

I Heartily thank your Lordſhip for communicating to me the enclos'd ſilly forg'd Certificate concerning Mr. *Robert Young* therein mention'd. This *Young* I never knew till about three years ſince, when he came to the Arch-Biſhop of *Caſhell* with a Letter of high recommendation from Dr. *Smith* to be Ordain'd Deacon. The Arch Biſhop being ſomewhat indiſpos'd, and not ſuſpecting the Letter, writes to me that I would do that Office, and encloſed Dr. *Smith*'s Letter to him therein. I knew the Arch-Biſhops Hand, and his Secretaries Hand that tranſcrib'd the Letter: But *Young*, it ſeems, not contented therewith, breaks open the Letter by the way, and adds a ſilly Poſtſcript (as near as I can remember) in theſe words, [*Moreover, Dear Brother, fail not to do this Office for Mr.* Young, *for he is a good Scholar, and moreover a very good Preacher.*] This Poſtſcript gave me ſome ſuſpicion; I charg'd him with it, but he ſtood ſtifly to it a great while, That the Poſtſcript was the Arch-Biſhops as well as the Letter; but at length confeſs'd he had broke open the Letter by the way, and added the Poſtſcript himſelf. Then I began to examin Dr. *Smith*'s Letter, and went into my Study to compare it with ſome I had of Dr. *Smith*'s, which I found to be nothing like, and charg'd him with that too; and after a little while he confeſs'd he had brib'd a Kinſman of Dr. *Smith*'s to Forge the Letter to the Arch-Biſhop; whereupon I gave him a Reproof, and diſmiſs'd him from me *re infectâ*. The next news that I heard of him, was, That he had Forg'd a Letter from the Archbiſhop of *Caſhell* to the Biſhop of *Killaloe*, to be Ordain'd Deacon, and thereupon he was Ordain'd. But how he came to be Ordain'd Prieſt by the Biſhop of *Elphin*, I cannot give your Lordſhip any good Account; yet this I have heard, That whilſt he was labouring his Ordination there, in few days, he was to have Married ſome poor Woman in thoſe parts, had not ſome perſon of the Neighbourhood where he liv'd

liv'd here in *Munster*, being casually there, discover'd that he had a Wife and Children then living here in these parts. An account whereof, if occasion be, may easily be had. And now, my Lord, I have an humble and earnest request, That your Lordship would not return this Forg'd Testimonial to *Young*; but either destroy it your self, or send it by the next, to

Your Lordships, &c.

H. Waterford *and* Lismore.

If *Young* be not free to part with his Testimonials and Letters of Orders too, (if your Lordship think good) I pray let him be secur'd, and in short time there will be enough to be said against him.

A Postscript of a Letter, together with a Letter to the Lord Bishop of Kilmore, *both from the Lord Bishop of* Elphin, *concerning* Robert Young's *having Counterfeited Priests Orders from his Lordship.*

Elphin, *Oct.* 4. 1680.

The enclos'd gives your Lordship an Account of Mr. *R. Young*, who was in an ill Name before he left us; and since it appeareth that he is αὐτόκλητος, fills his own hand, the Church can't do her self greater right, than to cast such unsavory Salt to the Dunghil.

My Lord,

MR. *Young*, alias *Hopkins*, coming into these Parts, and producing Letters of Orders from Dr. *Roan* Bishop of *Killaloo*, was by me admitted in writing under my own Hand and Seal, to serve a Cure in this Diocese; that wretched and unworthy Man was not by me Ordain'd Deacon or Presbyter: I had much rather have laid my Hands on Briars than on such

Heads. The enclos'd has been view'd by ſuch as know his Hand, and compar'd, All conclude it a Forgery, the Inſtrument form'd by himſelf, the Regiſters Hand Counterfeited. How he ſhould get my Seal I am not able to ſay, unleſs it was taken off the Licence I granted him; and of that there are ſtrong preſumptions. I ſhall acquaint thoſe that knew him there, that he is now in ſafe Cuſtody; and if he ſhould eſcape without ſome Brand, his ſcandalous Crimes being divulg'd and ſpread abroad, it would tend to the great diſhonour of God, and to the great diſcredit of our whole Profeſſion. I ſhall not give your Lordſhip farther trouble, but ſhall beſeech God to direct you herein; and likewiſe ſhall watch all opportunities to ſerve you, and approve my ſelf

Your Lordſhips, &c.

Joh. Elphin.

The Counterfeit Orders themſelves.

TEnore præſentium nos Johannes Providen' Divin' Elphin' Epiſcopus notum facimus univerſis quod nos Dei omnipotent' præſidio in Eccleſiâ Cathedr' Sanctæ Mariæ Elphinenſis vigeſimo ſexto die menſis Novembr' Ann. Dom. milleſimo ſexcenteſimo ſeptuageſimo ſeptimo, Sacroſanctos ordines Celebrantes, dilectum nobis in Chriſto Robertum Young, in Artibus Magſtru' de vitâ ſuâ laudabili moriumque & virtut' ſuaru' donis nobis multiplicit' commendat' & per nos etiam examinat' & approbat' & ad Sancta Dei Evangelia Primitus jurat' de Agnoſcendo ſupremam Regiam Authoritat' in omnibus cauſis tam Eccleſiaſticis quam civilibus, & de recuſando & Refut' omnes & ſingulas juriſdictiones forinſecas quaſcunque juxta form' Statut' hujus Regni in hujuſmodi caſu editi & proviſi, manuali inſuper ſubſcriptione ſua aſſenſum & conſenſum ſuum præbentem quatuor primis Canonibus Eccleſiæ Hiberniæ editis Anno decimo Regis Caroli primi beatæ memoriæ, ad ſacrûs Presbyteratum ordinem juxta morem & ritus Eccleſiæ Anglicæ & Hibernicæ editos & proviſos, admiſimus & promovimus: ipſumque Robertum Young in Presbyterum ritè & Canonicè ordinavimus tunc & ibidem. In cujus rei teſtimonium ſigillu' noſtrum Epiſcopale præſentibus apponi Fecimus & ſubſcripſimus die menſe & Anno & noſtræ conſecrat' An. undecimo.

Locus ſigilli.
Joh. Elphinenſis.

Thom. Banneſter.
Regiſtrarius.

Aprilis

Aprilis 22°. 1679.

Exibit' fuit hæc licencia in ordinario viſitationis curſu Reverend' Dcan' de Liſmore.

Thom. Neeſham.
Regiſtrarius.

Exibit' in viſitatione ordinaria tent' apud Cavan Septimo Aprilis 1680.

I think my Reader will ſay I have given a ſufficient Heap of Evidence concerning *Robert Young*'s Life and Converſation in *Ireland*. And to prove that all theſe Allegations againſt him are undeniable (for I would not willingly bely *Robert Young* himſelf) I will briefly ſhew by what certain Means I came by my Intelligence.

Having, among other Papers ſent me by Archbiſhop *Sancroft*, found the aforementioned Letter of Dr. *Foley*'s, encloſing one from the Lord Archbiſhop of *Dublin*, I ſent a Copy of it to that Excellent Perſon, my dear and honoured Friend, Sir *Charles Porter*, Lord Chancellor of that Kingdom; withal, intreating his Lordſhip to enquire a little farther into *Young*'s Character there. Whereupon my Lord Chancellor took ſuch care, that in a ſhort time I had the Originals of all theſe

theſe Papers tranſmitted to me by the Favour of the Lord Archbiſhop of *Dublin*; together with a Letter from his Grace to my ſelf, juſtifying them all to be Authentick, as may be ſeen in their Lordſhips own Letters, which I here ſubjoyn, as a Teſtimony of the great Obligations they have hereby laid on me, and Right they have done the World, in reſpect to *Robert Young*.

Three Letters from my Lord Chancellor Porter *to me.*

My Good Lord, *Dublin, July* 28. 1692.

SO ſoon as I receiv'd your Lordſhips of the 11th, with the inclos'd from Dr. *Foley* to Archbiſhop *Sancroft*, and found my Lord Archbiſhop of *Dublin* was moſt likely to give me an account of the perſon you deſir'd from Dr *Foley*; I went to him, and told him what reaſon I had to enquire after one *Robert Young*; and deſir'd he would give me ſome directions, how I might certainly know his Character. I did not ſhew him Dr. *Foley*'s Letter; but he remembred him and his Rogueries ſo perfectly, that he gave me the ſame with what is in the Letter; and withal ſaid, He did believe he could recover ſome Papers which would give me a full account of all that paſs'd: And within a day or two after, he came to Dine with me, and brought them with him; which I now have in my Cuſtody, and have perus'd. They are ſuch as ſhew by his own Confeſſion, as well as Proof, That he had two Wives at the ſame time in this Kingdom, for which he was in Goal; and I find by ſome of his Letters that he writes to his firſt Wife (wherein he owns his ſecond Marriage) he deſires her to ſave his

his Life, by Swearing he was never Married to her; and promiſes, if ſhe will do it, that he may gain his liberty, he will immediately go into *England* with her, and never more ſee his ſecond Wife, who was the Daughter of one *Simon Hutt* in *Cavan*. It appears by theſe Papers, that he Counterfeited the Hands and Seals of the Biſhops of *Elphin* and *Waterford* to Letters of his Admiſſion into Prieſts Orders, and the Hands of Dr *Wilſon* (now Biſhop of *Limerick*) and Dr. *Nicholſon*, and the Archbiſhop of *Caſhell*, all certifying in his behalf as to his Morals and Learning. In a word, I never met with ſo infamous a Villain. He was degraded by the Archbiſhop of *Dublin*, when Biſhop of *Kilmore*. I know not how he got out of Goal where he was committed for having two Wives, the truth whereof appears by ſeveral Letters under his own Hand. But I will inform my ſelf, and then give your Lordſhip an account. I know not whether you would have the Originals of all the Papers or Copies relating to this Rogue; when I know your mind, I will take the beſt care I can to obſerve it. I am

Your Lordſhips, &c.

Charles Porter.

He has counterfeited other Mens Hands in Bills, and got the Money thereupon; one of which I find among the Papers.

To the Lord Biſhop of *Rocheſter*.

My Lord, *Dublin Auguſt*, 17. 1692.

I Have yours of the 6th inſtant, and having ſhew'd it to my Lord Archbiſhop of *Dublin*, he has freely conſented I ſhall tranſmit you the Original Papers; which, as ſoon as I can light of a ſafe hand to bring them to your Lordſhip, ſhall be done, they being now with a Publick Notary for Authentick Copies to be kept here. My Lord Archbiſhop has alſo writ your Lordſhip a Letter relating to the Man, and the Matters of thoſe Papers, which he ſent me juſt now. I will not be wanting in giving it all poſſible diſpatch, that your Lordſhip may have

have opportunity to publiſh what you intend. I am, my Lord,

Your Lordſhips, &c.

To the Lord Biſhop of *Rochester*.

Charles Porter.

My Lord, *Dublin*, *Aug.* 26. 1692.

I Have now ſent you the Original Papers about *Young*: Mr. *Roberts* has promis'd me to deliver them to your own Hands; he goes from this place to morrow. I have ſent alſo my Lord Archbiſhop's Letter to your Lordſhip (of which I formerly ſent you a Copy) in the ſame Box; and have caus'd a Publick Notary to make Copies of all thoſe relating to *Young*, which I keep by me. As I muſt alſo deſire your Lordſhip to do the Originals; for I have undertaken you will do ſo: And you will find by what his Grace writes, that he deſires the ſame. I am

Your Lordſhips, &c.

Charles Porter.

A Letter from my Lord Archbiſhop of Dublin *to me.*

My Lord, *Dublin*, *Aug.* 17. 1692.

BY permiſſion of my Lord Chancellor, I had the view of your Lordſhips Letter to him concerning Mr. *R. Young*, whom I found employ'd as a Curate in the Dioceſe of *Kilmore*, when I ſerv'd there. He was delated to me for many extravagancies, the leaſt of which was Marrying without Banns or Licenſe. Tho' after his avoidance, by running out of my Dioceſe, upon his apprehenſion in the Dioceſe of *Raphoe*, whether he had betaken himſelf, and was ſent back to *Cavan* Goal by Warrant of the Juſtices, procur'd by *Simeon Hutt*, whoſe Daughter he had Married, and her Father had diſcover'd to be Married to another Woman then living; I took the advantage of uſing all

all the Force of the Canon in that Case, and degraded him, being then apprehensive of the Danger of his Hanging in his Gown. For this Crime he was indicted, but both the Women could not be brought together; and if they had, the then riding Judge (which, as I remember, was Mr. *Herbert*) declar'd the Fact within Benefit of Clergy: He was not sentenc'd, but left still in *Carvan* Gaol for Fees and Debts contracted there; where *Simeon Hutt*, an Inn-Keeper and Inhabitant there, by his Interest and proper concern, found means of Intercepting, and getting into his Hands some of the Letters of his own Hand-writing, and brought them to me. The other which are written to me are all Realities, and his pretended Orders I receiv'd of himself before he run away. But, my Lord, as I was saying, He was left in Gaol, and not knowing how to get out, he used means of applying to my Lord Duke of *Ormond*, then Lord Lieutenant, Pretending he could make notable Discoveries of dangerous Plots against the Government. The Popish Plot was then on foot, and his Grace, as imported, very tender and cautious of discountenancing his offer'd Service, gave him his Liberty, and order'd him to come up to *Dublin*, and make out what he could. The Scotchman had his End, never appear'd, but run away into *England* with his second Wife, and I never heard of him till this Overture with your Lordship. I did indeed write to Dr. *Foley*, then in *England*, to make some Inquiry after him, and to give notice of him, that there was such a Privateer abroad, and to obviate, as much as I could, the evil Practices of so vile a Man, and the Dishonour of the Church he pretended to. It is certain he Stole into Deacons Orders unobserv'd; he Forg'd his Priests Orders, and was Self-Ordain'd. He was extreamly vitious, and had Ignorance and Impudence enough to offer at any thing. Much of his Story (it is so long since 1680.) is out of my Head, and I wonder how these Papers now sent to your Lordship, escap'd the general Plunder I underwent, when all my Books and Papers were utterly lost for ever. I can't otherwise account for their Preservation, than that they were all tyed together and thrown into a Box of loose and useless Letters, which they, who took the rest of my Goods, neglected, because they had store of better things: And conse-

quenly were preſerv'd by a Servant of mine; and by a very caſual View, ſince my return out of *England*, after the late general Diſperſion, came into my Hands as I left them, utterly beyond any Purpoſe or Deſign of mine. However, it fell out happily enough, if your Lordſhip can make any uſe of them, for the Vindication of any honeſt and innocent Perſon, or the Detection of a notorious Villain. I beg your Lordſhip would let me know by ſome means or other, that you receiv'd them, and that you will preſerve them, for if they be any way available to your Lordſhip, they may be ſo (though that be, as this was, more than I can poſſibly fore-think) to ſome body elſe. I am,

To the Lord Biſhop of Rocheſter.

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips, &c.

Francis Dublin.

I have now brought the true *Robert Young* and his falſe Wife ſafe into *England*; though I confeſs I had rather any Man in *England* had done it than my ſelf. But now they are here I will proceed with them in the very ſame plain and juſt Method, as I did before in relating their Actions in *Ireland*; I will trace out their crooked Paths as near as I can, ſtep by ſtep, and follow them cloſe at their Backs with an honeſt Hue-and-Cry of Original Papers, deſcribing them and their Crimes.

I have

I have already declared, That after their arrival in *England* about the year 1683, upon *Robert Young*'s unlucky Repulſe at *Lambeth*, one of the moſt memorable Enterprizes in which he and his Woman diſplayed their Art, Was the taking upon them the Names, firſt of *Green*, then of *Jones*, then of *Smith*, (all Counterfeits of Clergymen in diſtreſs) and then authorizing the whole Cheat by Forg'd Recommendations of Archbiſhop *Sancroft's:* Beginning thus to practice on other Men's Purſes by Forging his Grace's Hand, that when they were more perfect in it, they might attempt with it to ſtrike at his Life.

I begin, firſt, with their Cheating Dealings under the Name of *Green*; which was the firſt conſiderable Figure, I know of, that they made of themſelves in *England*.

By this having deluded vaſt numbers of good People in ſeveral Dioceſes, eſpecially that of *Norwich*; (whereof I have by me a large Liſt of the Parochial Collections) they came at laſt, as I have ſaid, to be Detected and Puniſhed for it at *Bury*.

Now to clear up this part of their Hiſtory which concluded there, it will be very mate-

rial that I ſhould recount diſtinctly the occaſion and manner of their being Apprehended, and ſome of *Roberts* moſt notorious Enormities, even whilſt he was Impriſon'd in that Gaol, which was for about the ſpace of a Year.

When *Robert* and *Mary* brought the Recommendation, Falſified under the Hands of the Lord Archbiſhop of *Canterbury*, and the Lord Biſhop of *London*, to Mr. *Clegatt* Miniſter of that Town; and boldly required him to ask the Charity of the Inhabitants thereupon; both Mr. *Clegatt*, and Mr. *Samuel Batteley*, a very worthy Perſon dwelling there, (whoſe Brother was then the Archbiſhop's Chaplain,) ſoon diſcerned the Knavery, and immediately repaired to the Magiſtrate's for a Warrant to ſeize them.

In the mean time *Robert Young*, alias *Youngs*, alias *Hutt*, alias *Green*, ſuſpecting he was diſcovered, went directly to his Inn, and with his Siſter and Wife Mrs. *Mary Green*, alias *Young*, *&c.* preſently took Horſe, and rode as faſt as they could out of Town, in hopes to have eſcaped.

Mr.

Mr. *Battely* believing they would do ſo, left the Conſtable to bring the Warrant, and ran ſtraight towards the Inn to look after them; when he ſoon perceived them on Horſe-back, making all poſſible ſpeed away. But by good luck, their Horſe being weak and poor, he overtook them, laid hold on the Bridle, and led them back. Whereupon they were Committed, Tried, and upon their own Confeſſion Condemn'd and Pillory'd; as by the Record will appear when it ſhall be produc'd.

After this, *Robert* — what ſhall I call him? remain'd in *Bury* Gaol divers Months for not paying his Fees, till the Summer of the Year 1685. That being the Firſt Year of King *James's* Reign, and about the time of the Duke of *Monmouth's* Invaſion, he thought it a proper Seaſon for him to declare, (as he had done before in *Ireland* upon the like Exigency of his Affairs,) that he could make out a certain Diſcovery of Seditious and Treaſonable Practiſes, wherein divers conſiderable Perſons thereabouts were engaged.

To this purpoſe he not only actually ſwore Treaſon againſt one *John Pannel*, (to whom he owed a ſpite, who was then a Fel-

Fellow-Priſoner with him for Debt, and is now an Officer in the ſaid Borough,) but alſo ſent up a Petition, which he call'd, *A Full Diſcovery of Treaſon by* Robert Youngs, *Clerk*, to be deliver'd to the King and Parliament then Sitting; wherein he offered to prove, (if he might have his Freedom, and be brought up to *London*,) *That divers Wicked Traytors in that Country, particularly ten Preſbyterian Miniſters, one Lord, two Eſquires, a Colonel, a Captain, a Cornet, and a Gentleman, had been long Plotting and Contriving the Death of the King, and the Subverſion of the Government.*

But of his whole Behaviour at *Bury*, the following Papers, being of undoubted Authority, are an abundant Proof. It will be enough for me to name them as they paſs along by me.

Only here I intreat my Reader once for all to obſerve what is moſt for my purpoſe, That ſuch has been the conſtant Method of his Life both before and ſince, as far as I have been able to obtain any Knowledge of it: Whenever he was out of Priſon, he has forged Hands to Bills, and Recommendations to get Money: And when he happen'd to be Impriſon'd for thoſe For-

Forgeries, then he has fallen to counterfeit mighty Diſcoveries of Plots againſt the State, to gain his Liberty.

Firſt then here are the ſeveral Confeſſions of *Robert Young* and *Mary Hutt* themſelves before the Juſtices of the Peace at *Bury*, in 1684.

Number I. *The Information of* Mary Green, *alias* Hutt, *alias* Peirſon, *alias* Young; *taken by* Martin Spenſley *Eſq*; *Mayor of the ſaid Borough*; Thomas Holland *Eſq*; John Sotheby *Eſq*; *and* Robert Sharp *Gent. Juſtices of the Peace for the ſaid Borough, the* 15*th Day of* September, 1684.

Borough *of* Bury St. Edmund.

THE *ſaid Informant ſaith, that the Paper and Seal thereunto annexed, pretended to be a Certificate from the Biſhop of* Elphin *in* Ireland, *was counterfeited in* Ireland, *and brought over from thence by her in* April *or* May *laſt*; *and that ſhe neither hath, or ever had any Husband called by the Name of* Robert Green; *but that all in the ſame Certificate menti-on'd concerning him is Counterfeit*; *and that the Perſon who is now in her Company, came with her out of* Ireland, *and that he is her Brother, and his Name is* Robert Hutt; *and that they came together to* London, *where in the Square at* Eſſex-Stairs, *ſhe met with one, whoſe Name ſhe doth not now remember, that writ the Petition which ſhe carried to* Windſor, *and with her own Hands preſented it to the King, who deliver'd it back to the Mr.* Bolſtred, *without any further Anſwer to it. Whereupon ſhe repaired to the Archbiſhop of* Canterbury, *and ſhew'd him her Counterfeit Certifi-cate from the Biſhop of* Elphin; *and he having view'd it, recommended it to Sir* John Nicholas, *to whom ſhe repaired accordingly, and ſhew'd him the Petition which ſhe had deliver'd to his Majeſty, and left it with him*; *and afterwards (as he told this Informant) he carried the ſame to his Maje-ſty at* Hampton-Court; *and that, it being read, becauſe it concerned* Ire-land, *the King recommended it to the Duke of* Ormond, *and afterwards*

this

this Informant had the Answer to it from him, mentioned in the Paper, to which Sir John Nicholas's Name is subscribed. And further saith, That the Paper to which the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Bishop of London's Hands and Seals are set, is also Counterfeit, and printed in another Person, whose Name she remembreth not; and that the same Person, did set the Archbishop and Bishop of London's Hands and Seals to it: And saith, that by Vertue of her said Paper and Seals, she and her Brother have gathered a great deal of Money, and thereby abused many of the King's Subjects.

Mary Hutt.

The Information of the said *Robert Hutt*, taken before us the Day and Year aforesaid.

WHO saith, that the said Mary Hutt, who goes by the Name aforesaid, is his Sister, and that he never knew any Person by the Name of Green or Young that was her Husband. But says, That he living in or about Cork in Ireland, and she in Connaught, above an hundred Miles distant, in March last she came to this Informant's House, and told him, That she had been married to one Green a Clergy-man; and that he going to Sea, was taken by the Turks, and she was going to London to Petition his Majesty for Money for his Release; and that she had a Certificate from the Bishop of the Diocese, of the Truth thereof; and thereupon desired this Informant to go along with her, and pressed him so hard therein, that at last he left his own Occasions with a Friend, and went with her to London, by the Name of Green, and knew no other Name she had; and at London carried her to one William Young's a Drummer, living in Petty-France beyond Westminster, near the Sign of Whitehall, where they stayed all the time they were about London; and during that time she went to Windsor to Petition his Majesty; and finding no Satisfaction there, she applied her self to the Archbishop of Canterbury and Bishop of London, Sir John Nicholas, and others, as in her said Information is set down. But saith, that he knew nothing, how she came by the said Certificates and Papers, or who drew her Petitions, he knows not. But saith, that upon and with them, he hath gone about the Country with her, and hath collected several Sums of Money in several Countries in the Papers thereof mentioned: He not knowing but that all her Papers and Certificates were true.

Martin Spensley,
Mayor.

Robert Hutt.

The

The further Information and Examination of the ſaid *Robert Hutt*, taken the Day and Year aboveſaid.

THE ſaid Examinate ſaith, that his Name is Robert Young, not Hutt, and that the ſaid Mary is his Wife; and that they came out of Ireland at the ſame time aforementioned; and that he is in Prieſts Orders according to the Church of England, and received the ſame from Dr. Roan Biſhop of Killaloo in Ireland, and had a Cure of 18 l. per Annum at Calthorn there; and that he hath preached in St. Margarets Church in Weſtminſter, and confeſſeth that all the Papers and Certificates aforeſaid, are Counterfeit, and were made by one * Wright, a Scrivener in Oxford; and he ſet the Hands and Seals to them, except that from the Biſhop of Elphin in Ireland, which is ſigned by Thomas Banneſter, and was made by him; and he obtained the Biſhop's Seal to it, for which he had 10 s. And further, That about two years ſince he was in England, and apply'd himſelf to the Archbiſhop of Canterbury for ſome Preferment, and Din'd with him; but finding none, he returned into Ireland; and being deſtitute of Friends, he apply'd himſelf to this ill Courſe, preſuming thereby to obtain Charity from the People. And further ſaith, that the ſaid Wright ſet Sir John Nicholas's Hand in Anſwer to the Petition to the King; and for that, and for ſetting the Hands of the Archbiſhop of Canterbury and Biſhop of London, he had a Guinea.

* I am certainly informed, that there never was one *Wright*, Scrivener in *Oxford*, ſo that he has abuſed the Name of *Wright*, as he has done that of *Green*, *Jones*, *Smith*, and divers others.

Thom. Holland.
John Sotheby.
Rob Sharp.

Robert Young, *Clerk.*

Secondly, Here are Copies of *Mary Hutt's* Petition to King *Charles* the Second, under the feigned Name of *Mary Green*; and of the Forged Reference and Recommendations upon it.

Numb. II. To the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty, and the Right Honorable Lords of His Majeſty's moſt Honorable Privy Council.

The Humble Petition of *Mary Green*, Wife of *Robert Green*, of the Kingdom of *Ireland*:

Moſt Humbly Sheweth,

THAT *your Petitioners ſaid Husband being minded to take a Voyage into the* Weſt-Indies, *upon ſome extraordinary Occaſions, it was his hard Fortune to be taken by a* Sally *Man of War about ſix Months ſince, as may appear by a Certificate under the Hand and Seal of the Right Reverend Father in God, the Lord Biſhop of* Elphin, *in the Kingdom of* Ireland; *and that he ſtill remains under the extream Burthen of Slavery in* Sally; *his Randſom being ſet at a thouſand Dollars; which your Petitioner, in regard of her great Poverty, is no ways able to raiſe; ſhe having two ſmall Children, being with Child of a Third, hath not wherewith to provide for her ſelf and them, but is like to periſh for want of Relief.*

Your Petitioner therefore moſt humbly Prays, that your Majeſty wil be graciouſly pleaſed to recommend your Petitioner's and her Husband's diſtreſſed Condition to the Conſideration of the Clergy of England; *and in his Behalf, to requeſt them to Contribute their Charity toward her Husband's Ranſom, and your Petitioner's preſent Relief.*

And your Petitioner ſhall ever Pray, *&c.*

Read in Council, *Jun.* 18, 1684.

THE Petitioner *is referred to his Grace the Archbiſhop of* Canterbury, *and Biſhop of* London, *to do therein, as to them ſhall ſeem meet and convenient, for the Redemption of the ſaid* Robert Green, *Clerk.*

John Nicholas.

W E

WE recommend the Petitioner to the Clergy of (provided this our Order continue no longer than three Months) England, intreating them fairly to Contribute their Charity toward the Ransome of the said Robert Green. *Moreover, (on his Majesty's Command to us) We require, and earnestly desire the respective Ministers of all Cities, Towns, &c. to go from House to House, to receive the charitable Benevolence of well disposed Christians, whom we hope will likewise contribute to the Enlargement of a poor distressed Clergy-man.*

Given under our Hand and Seal at *Lambeth-House, Jun.* 16. 1684.

W. Cant. *here* ⊖ *his Seal.*

H. London *here* ⊖ *the Seal.*

Numb. III. Robert Young's *Petition to the Magistrates at* Bury, *acknowledging his Crime.*

To the Worshipful Mayor, and the rest of the Justices for the Borough of *Bury St. Edmonds.*

The Humble Petition of *Robert Youngs* Clerk:

Sheweth,

THAT the Petitioner being not only sensible (as 'tis apparent) of his bidding adieu to all Truth and Honesty, and measuring the same by his own humorsome Fancy, making every thing ridiculous that was not suitable to his owne ignorant Conceptions; but penitent likewise, thinking himself bound (for the future) to take a Notice, that Honesty is the best Policy.

Forasmuch therefore, as your poor Suppliant being a Stranger, and such to most in this Kingdom, and having little or no Friends or Acquentance, *Humbly beseecheth,*

That your Worshipes will be graciously pleased to accept of such Baile, as your poor Suppliant can conveniently produce, whereby he may not in a Goal be compelled to end his Days, but have his Liberty to compose those Differences now depending. The Lord create in your Worships Bowells of Compassion towards him, who prays for,

Your, &c.

Next here is *Robert Young*'s First Letter to the Lord Archbishop of *Canterbury* in 1684, Confessing his Crime of Forgery, but in all else giving a very Lying account of himself. A Letter very singular for the Elegancy of its Style; And Recommended to the Reading of all who call themselves Presbyterians.

Numb. IV.

May it please your Grace, Bury, Sept. 30. 1684.

THis rude and imperfect Supplication, being now to pass into your Graces Hands, shal I be so bold as to begg your Grace to peruse it: In prosecution whereof I do conceive my Birth and Education, wil in your Grace create a better understanding of me, my Life and Conversation; than that which the Envyous Man realy represents it to be: For Envy is ever working upon some or other; for which cause it is the proper attribute of the Devill; who is called the Envious Man that soweth Tares amongst the Wheat by Night. But to return, your poor Suppliant is (by Birth) an Englishman, Born of an honest Stock at *Chester*, (a Town of Marchandize on the Sea Coast of *England*) whose Grandfather was Sir *Peter Young*'s Son, and Grandmother the Duke of *Lenox*'s Daughter; the Truth whereof (if question'd) may sufficiently (by a Gentleman in *London*) be prov'd: Knowing some Persons to delight in Giddiness, and accounts it a Bondage to fix a Belief, afecting Freewill in Thinking as well as in Doing. Your poor Suppliant likewise (after some knowledge in Schoole Learning) was remov'd to *Trinity* Colledge near *Dublin*; where (in good Litterature) he for the space of 7 years remain'd: And from thence, by the Instigation of Dr. *Smith*, (Dean of *Limerick*) was employed as a Reader; which Duty by me was faithfully perform'd for the space of 2 years, being then only a Deacon. From thence (by the Death of the said Dr. *Smith*) removed I was to serve Dr. *John Wilson*'s Cure, (sometime Fellow of St. *Magdalene* Colledge in *Oxford*, who as Chaplain to his Grace my Lord Duke of *Ormond*, came for *Ireland*) on which Provision (tho' inconsiderable) admitted I was into full Orders by the late Bishop of *Clogher*; who was a Man of that Divine Nature, that all that knew him had a loss of him: The very Memory of whom may justly draw a Fountain of Water from mine Eyes: His favour to me ward cannot easily be forgotten. Thus (in short) your Grace has a Description

tion of my Birth, Education, Life, and Converſation, which leads me to Expoſtulate my preſent Sufferings: I am, and ever was, a Faithfull Son of the Church of *England*. All Diſcentors were ever odious in mine Eyes, ſpecially that Damnable Factio n of Presbytery. If I could (as well as others) have wink'd at their irregular Undertakings, Poverty and Bondage would not now have Dominion over me. But my Method was to reduce ſuch Factious Perſons to a regular Underſtanding, and obſerve wherein, and how far they have degenerated, altho' others Gleanings I confeſs are better than my Vintage, as I am the leaſt of the Tribe: Yet I cannot ſit ſtill, but (if occaſion offer'd it ſelf) would once more adventure to caſt in my Mite againſt ſuch Hæreſy as thoſe Gifted Perſons pretended to. But knowing to whom I ſpeak, I muſt not hold your Grace too long to peruſe this ignorant Diſcourſe, leaſt I give Offence. Laſtly, to make an Ingenious Confeſſion, your poor Suppliant in the aforeſaid Cure (tho' inſufficient if narrowly conſider'd to maintain a Family) continued without Scandal and Corruption for the ſpace of 4 years; but by the inſufficiency thereof (being but 18 *l. per Annum*) was forced to Borrow Money, which Summ at the day prefix'd I could not diſburſe: whereupon they Iſſued out Writs againſt me: But I conſidering Fortune to be like the Market, where if a Man ſtay a little, the price will fall. Thus I thought it better to meet ſome danger half way, than to keep too long a Watch upon my Enemies approach: For if a Man watch too long, (as my caſe ſtood) tho' he committ the beginnings thereof to *Argus* with his 100 Eyes, and the *ends to* Briareus *with his* 100 *Hands*, 'tis odds he will fall aſleep: So that I thought it my beſt way (for a time) to remove my Self and Family to prevent future Inconveniences. Whereupon I with a Diſcontented Heart came for *England*; and (if your Grace call to mind) made to you my Application; willing was I to take up with the leaſt Proviſion; But no vacancy in your Graces Diocels was the Anſwer; and withal told me, that my Lord of *London* poſſibly might Anſwer my Requeſt. Whereupon I ſtrait way attended my Lord of *London*, but no Satisfactory Anſwer could I find there. On which, what to do I knew not, but the ſecond time waited on your Grace, and gave up my Lord of *London*'s Anſwer; and withal told your Grace that willing I was to go for the *Weſt Indias*. Your Graces Anſwer was, That Proviſions there lay in my Lord of *London*, but being deſtitute of Money and Friends, diſinabled I was to get thither, unleſs I had Sold my ſelf for a Bond Slave, which I was not willing to do. So that for *Ireland* I again repair'd, but no ſooner was I well there ſettled, in a Cure far remote from the other, but News my Creditors had; for which (without my Salary) glad was I to flee again in a diſtracted Condition; and came (accompanied with my Wife) to *Oxford*,

Ford, where Friendship I did endeavour to create, but all in vain. From thence went I towards *Bristol*, thinking to have made my Address to the Bishop of that Diocese, but supplanted I was by his Death. So that my self I applied to the Body of the Clergy, but meet not with a satisfactory Answer; my second Application was to desire them to disburse Money for our Fraught; but meeting not with my desir'd success I came away not knowing which way to turn my self; to go and Steal I would be Hang'd; to take by violence a Purse I would be in the same Condition; to Work I knew not which way; to Begg of the Clergy (so many Cheats going about) I knew (being a Stranger) they would (tho undeserv'd then) pass on me the same Sentence. Thus Friendless and Moneyless we came to *Oxford* in a sad Condition, and accidentilly meet with one *Wright* by Surname; who (after some days *acquaintance*) put me upon this Hellish Stratageme upon your Grace, which Forgery he committed, altho' I am not thereby excus'd. Truly a terrour to my Conscience was it every hower, knowing such Clandestine Actions to be both against the Laws of God and Man. O fie! that ever it should be said that a Clergyman have committed such durty Actions. O that my Eyes were a Fountain of Water to Weep for Remission, for Pardon, for Satisfaction, both to God and Man. For sure I am the unjust shal be punish'd in the next World, if not in this. I acknowledge my Crime to be great, the Lord give a right Understanding of my Errour; wherein I have offended both God and Man: And what shal I do, or what shal I say to mitigate this Crime? Tis true, I am heartily sorry, which perhaps (in your Grace) may create Mercy; but not Pardon from my God, without a Loathing and Hearty Detestation of such unlawfull ways of Gain, and an Absolution from a Bishop. Truely my Intention (after the Receipt of 20 *l.*) was for the *West Indias*; No more did I desire than what would carry my Family thither: But disappointed I was by the just Judgement of the Almighty: All we receiv'd was spent to recover my Wifes Health; Seaven Weeks did she lye Sick, which the Justices here are not Ignorant of; and what little stock we had was exhausted, so that we have neither Friends nor Money. Your poor Suppliant therefore in most humble manner Beseecheth, that your Grace will be graciously pleas'd to Regulate the Hearts and Minds of these Justices, who have Committed my poor Sickly Wife as well as my self; and (by your Graces Letter) to animate their Hearts to Charity, the Sessions being Monday next. Tis true, I have in a most gross manner incurr'd your Graces Displeasure, and does not diserve the least Favour, specially at your Graces Hands; for which from the bottom of my Heart I humbly beg your Graces Pardon, Beseeching your Grace in Justice to remember Mercy; and tho your Grace may cast a severe

were Eye upon the Example, yet I humbly Beseech your Grace to cast a merciful Eye upon the Person, to whom this shal for ever be a warning piece, and subscribes him self,

Your Graces,

most Penitent

and Obedient Servant

Robert Young.

My Reader finds that this First Letter of *Robert Young*'s to Archbishop *Sancroft*, which seems so full of Remorse and Solemn Detestation of his former Wickedness, in Forging his Graces Name, was dated in Prison at *Bury*, *Sept.* 30. 1684. but to shew what kind of Penitent he was, I will here subjoyn the Informations of divers Persons at *Bury* in 1685 touching *Robert Young*'s Threatnings against the Archbishop of *Canterbury*'s Life, not long after he had written this first Letter.

Numb. V.

Bury St. Edmunds, Mart. 27, 1685.

MEmorandum, *That we whose Names are under written, being in Company with* Robert Young, *(who was laid in* Bury *Gaol for Counterfeiting his Grace the Archbishop of* Canterbury*'s Hand and Seal, &c.) he spoke these Words immediately upon hearing of his late Majesties Death, which was* Saturday, February 7. 84. [*Is the King Dead? Then have at the Archbishop of Canterbury's Head.*] *These Words were spoken in his Chamber in my Hearing.*

Witness my Hand. Thomas Boume.

The

THE *same Day in the Cellar, the said* Robert Young *declared, that now the King was dead, he would have the Archbishop of* Canterbury's *Head off. Witness our Hands*

John Pannell.
Matthew † Baxter.
his Mark.

AND *at other times, in my hearing, and others that are now out of Town, the said* Robert Young *declared, That if ever he got out of Prison, he would revenge himself on his Grace the Archbishop of* Canterbury.

John Pannell.

AT *another time, some two or three days before, the said* Robert Young, *upon hearing of his Majesty's Death, did, to the hearing of me* John Rewse, *in the said* Young's *Chamber in* Bury *Prison, say these Words:* [Some of my Enemies may repent what they have done to me; it will not be long e're the Archbishop of *Canterbury*'s Head be off.]

John Rewse.

WIlliam Rose, *of* Elmswel, *in the County of* Suffolk, *Yeoman, saith, That* Robert Young, *a Prisoner in* Bury *Gaol, upon hearing of his late Majesty's Death, did publickly say these Words following, viz.* Now by God have at the Archbishop of *Canterbury*'s Head. *And that at several times he hath discovered himself to bear Hatred against his Grace, and hath often spoken reproachfully against his Grace.*

William Rose.

Sixthly, Here is *Robert Young*'s Second Letter to the Lord Archbishop of *Canterbury*; confessing still his own Guilt, but intended chiefly to weaken the Evidence of *John Pannel*, one of those *Bury* Witnesses, by accusing him of Treason.

Numb.

Numb. VI. Bury, July, 23. 85.

May it please your Grace,

IN the first place, all that I design in this Letter, is an Apology for my self, to ask Pardon for my Transgression against your Grace, (although deluded thereto) hoping that this my mean and weak Supplication will be sheltered under the Canopy of your profound Charity. And seeing I have (by wicked Advice) consented to things misbecoming an honest Man, most Reverend Father, let not my Honesty be tainted therewith, but evil Counsell justly blamed; which for ever hereafter shal be a warning Piece to me, never to commit the like again; but by honest and Christian Endeavours, to provide for himself and Family, whose Conditions are now reduc'd so low, that perish they must, unless by your Graces Clemency eased. Furthermore, I do promise to do your Grace that Justice, as to bring in the first Actours and Contrivers of that wicked Action, who did not only incorage me, but several Imposthims they likewise have sent abroad, which I can prove. Having thus far declared my self, and endevoured to take off such Aspersions as might possibly have been thrown on me; give me leave to * *acquent* your Grace, that I am given to understand, that one *John Pannel* have lately sent your Grace a Petition, intreating you to incense the Judge that comes this Circuit against me; which Petition I humbly desire, and beseech you (for your Honour) to disregard. For that Person is a rebellious Traytor, and have declared himself so to be; his Words and intended Actions are in breve, as followeth. He called the King a Popish Dog, a Rogue, and said that he has taken that which was none of his own, but the Duke of *Monmouth's*; he has said likewise, that he would do his Endevour to chop off that Popish Rogue's Head. *Si indixeris mihi ut singula dilatem, non recusabo; modo tempus mihi concesseris: nam statim hoc facere, non est harum, quod Corpus, Virium, paratus semper dicere, qui sint subditi probati & qui non.* My Lord, I thought fit thus to * *acquent* your Grace, that you may not so much as mention his Name with any due Respect; his factious Ancestors will make him notorious enough, if no Treason were objected and laid to his Charge. But seeing what I have in part * *acquented* your Grace with, will next Assizes be sworn against him by three Evidences, and the King likewise * *acquented* therewith; and the said *John Pannell* a great Finatick. I humbly have sent your Grace (out of that Love and Affection I bear to my King, and to the Clergy) this Caution of the said *John Pannell*. So I take leave, desiring to remain

Your Graces most Humble Servant,

Robert Youngs.

Seventhly, Here is the true Hand and Seal of Archbiſhop *Sancroft*, which *Robert Young* having torn off from a real Inſtrument of his Graces that he had caſually lighted on, prefix'd a falſe Licence to it to Beg in three other Dioceſes; and that dated even after the former Letters to the Archbiſhop, and after he had been Pillory'd at *Bury* for the Firſt Forgery.

Numb. VII.

WE recommend the Petitioner to the Dioceſe *of* Oxford, Lincoln *and* Sarum, *humbly beſeeching the Clergy of all Cities and Corporations within the aforeſaid* Dioceſſes *to go from Houſe to Houſe to receive the Benevolence of all Charitable Chriſtians, towards the Relief of a poor diſtreſſed Clergy-man.*

Given under our Hand and Seal, at *Lambeth-Houſe, Jan.* 2. Ann. Dom. 1685. *Locus Sigilli.*

W. Cant.

Two Papers relating to a falſe Plot in King *James*'s time, which *Robert Young* offer'd to diſcover at *Bury*, when he was Priſoner there in the year 1685. Both which Papers are Written with his own Hand, and were taken out of his Pocket when he was ſearch'd for Inſtruments, wherewith he deſign'd to break Priſon there.

The

The First Paper, which seems to be a Letter to some Lord at Court concerning *Robert Young*'s Plot in 1685, but is not Superscribed.

Numb. VIII.

May it please your Lordship. Bury-Goale, June 13, 85.

ALthough I have been, and also am unwilling to truble you with my Letters, yet notwithstanding the treacherous Speeches and intended Actions of wicked Rebels, forceth me thereunto at Present: I leatly a Petition to the King and Parliament sent, which Petition (declaring in part the Purport of what I have to say) I humbly beseech your Lordship, for the Love of a gracious King, to take care of, and so far, that King and Parliament may therewith be acquainted. Nothing is therein delivered, but what I by sufficient Evidence can make appear to be Truth: Justice will in no wise for the King here be done; the Reasons, when removed, I'le produce, but here I dare not; I humbly defier, before his Royal Majesty, and his high honorable Court of Parliament, to be, as soon as may be, called up, where with Justice, and not with Partiality, I may be heard to speak.

[And here follows some of his former sort of Latin, which I set down as I find it in his own Hand.]

De his rebus omnibus obsecro & supplicitèr imploro te mihi rescribere literam, inquâ si indixerit mihi ut singula delatem non recusabo, paratus semper ostendere, qui sint proditores, subditi & qui non. Nihil jam superest aliud scribendum, nisi quod supplex orem ut omnes actiones secundas Deus optimus maximusque. Et ex toto Corde Vale.

Ex Carcere 13° *die mensis*, Tuæ salutis & amplitudinis,
Junij *Ann. Dom.* 85. Cupidissimus, &c. R. Y.

The Second Paper, which is the Original Petition that *Robert Young* sent up to be presented to the King and Parliament in *May* 1685. wherein he Promises to make out the discovery of his Plot, if he might have his Liberty, and be brought up to *London* to be the King's Evidence. This is also Recommended to the Reading of the Presbyterians.

A full Discovery of Treason by Robert Youngs, *Clerk.*

To the most High and Mighty Prince, *James* the Second, by the Grace of God, King of *Great Britain*, *France* and *Ireland*, Defender of the Faith, *&c.* and to His most Honourable and High Court of Parliament.

The Humble Petition of *Robert Young*, Clark now a Prisoner in *Bury* St. *Edmunds*, in the County of *Suffolk*.

In most humble and lamentable wise complaineth unto Your Majesty and Your High Court of Parliament;

THAT whereas your most obedient Subjects, living under the Laws of God and Your Majesty's Realms, in the Days of the late gratius King Charles *the Second, of ever blessed Memory, did in all things shew himself a true*

true, faithful, and obedient Subject, according to his Function, as well as in the sincere Administration (according to the Church of England) of Gods holy Word, as in due Obedience to the higher Powers. Your said Supplicant, notwithstanding, contrary to all Laws of Justice and Equity, was notwithstanding, in very extream manner, not only cast into Prison (where he, being altogether a Stranger, have these eight Months by just continued, but likewise (last Assizes nothing being objected against him) bound over to his good Behaviour, where he will (through Malice, and for fear of discovering their rebellion and clandestine Actions) perish inevitably; for such is the Malignity of your Majesties Enemies against your poor Subject, that they keep him close look'd up, not suffering his Wife to come to him, giving Order likewise, that all Pen, Ink and Paper should not be permitted to be carried to him, least he make Complaint. And the more Severity they show, because Your obedient Subject did discover one John Pennel, who like a Rebel and a Traiter, did call Your Sacred Majesty a Popish Dog and Rogue; and said, that he, against Your Sacred Majesty, would fight for the Duke of Monmouth so long as he had Blud in his Body. Moreover, Feb. 7, 84. about three of Clock the in Afternoon, he swore, That now he would accomplish his long design'd and intended Purpose. Now, said he, (News being brought a little before that the late King was realy dead) I will have that Popish Rogues Head, &c. Now by the Discovery hereof, your poor Subject have to himself Enemies innumerable created, and yet will (so long as Life continues) stand firm and unshaken, notwithstanding all the vain Attempts and impetuous Assaults made against him, by such Men as are given to Change, and have always discovered a greater Regard to their own treacherous and Rebellious Spirits, than to that Duty and Legallty which they owe unto Your most Sacred Majesty. All these things, and much more stand against John Pennel, and others (whom to discover here, were to no purpose) be confirmed by three Witnesses. Many are the Conspiracies and Conspirators, who have plotted and contrived how to bring their wicked Ente prizes to an Head. In order hereunto (as in Conscience obliged, and as a faithful Subject to Your Majesty) can, and will make a full Discovery of Ten Presbyterian Ministers, One Lord, Two Esquires, A Collonel, A Captain, A Gunner, 8 Gentlemen, who having long since Plotted and Contrived the Death of Your most Sacred Majesty, and the Subversion of the Government now established among us, and still continues their Hellish Devices, who (if in time not prevented) will (with a sad Memento) make known what Your faithful Subject doth now in part relate, they having promised, vowed and protested, that if ever Your Majesty came to the Crown, enjoy it you should not one Year to an end. Such Evidence against them, singularly shall be produced, as to the Consciences of all loving Subjects shall seem reasonable and sufficient; and if Your poor Subject does not prove by sufficient Evidence what he now affirms, Your said Subject offers himself then to the most heavy Punishment that it shall please Your Majesty to appoint.

In

In Consideration whereof, may it please Your most Sacred Majesty and this Your High Court of Parliament, graciously to take the Premisses so far into Your tender Consideration, as to call up to London *before Your Princely Majesty Your poor Subject, who will in full discover all those Clandestine Actions and Hellish Stratagems of Rebellious and Treacherous Rebles, who intends no Goodnesse towards Your Royal Person, whom God preserve, &c. which thing being granted, Your said Subject doubts not but that it shall plainly appear de unde by sufficient Evidence) who are Faithful Subjects and who not. Wherefore for the tender Mercy of God, Your said Subjects in Bonds and Irons, most humbly Beseecheth Your Majesty, and this High Court of Parliament, Benignly and Graciously to grant the Petitions, tending so Graciously to the Preservation of Your Majesty and the Goverment now Established amongst us, &c.*

And Your Petitioner as in Duty bound will ever Pray, *&c.*

In this last, and in several of the foregoing Papers, my Reader finds mention of one *John Pannell*. Upon this there depends a Story which must not be omitted, because it is sent me from *Bury*, Attested under Hand and Seal by Persons of known Credit and Repute: And with this I shall end all *Robert Young*'s Transactions at *Bury*.

It appears, that this *John Pannel* had not only fallen into *Robert Young*'s Displeasure by his having been one of the Witnesses of his Menaces against the Archbishop's Life, but also for having prevented *Robert*'s design'd escape out of the Common Gaol there.

Robert Young in Revenge of all this, not only wrote to the Archbishop against him in the venemous manner as appears in his second

Letter

Letter to his Grace, *That there ſhould be High-Treaſon Sworn againſt the ſaid* John *the next Aſſizes*, and not only alſo nam'd him as Guilty in the foregoing Petition to the King and Parliament, mentioning in both the particular Treaſons, but effectually made good his word; And the very next Aſſizes at *Ipſwich*, for the County of *Suffolk* in the ſame year 1685, Proſecuted *John Pannell* for his Life before the Lord Chief Juſtice *Jones*.

Nay, when it was objected by the Judge that this was but a ſingle Witneſs, *Robert* immediately took care to ſupply that defect, and out of hand produc'd *Mary* to Swear the very ſame Words, and the very ſame Time and Place, as her Fore-man had Sworn before her.

So that had not the Lord Chief Juſtice been ſeaſonably inform'd of the profligate Reputation of *Robert* and *Mary*; and had not the Deputy Gaoler of *Bury* proferr'd voluntary to take his Oath, That *Mary* was really abſent from *Robert*, and had been ſo for a good ſpace, both before and after the time, when the Treaſonable Words were pretended by *Robert* to have been ſpoken by *John Pannell*, the poor innocent Man had been

been in danger of being Hang'd for a Traytor to King *James*, by the Perjury of these two wretched Gaol-Birds.

But thus much for *Robert* and *Mary Green* &c.

Next we shall behold the same Farce acted over again by the same Persons, under the disguised Names of *Robert* and *Mary Jones*; *John* and *Mary Smith*: She the Wives of him the Rectors of the same *Ashford* in *Kent*, and both at the same time.

Nay (to shew how necessary it is that great Lyars should have great Memories) we shall see, that two of these pretended Recommendations from Archbishop *Sancroft*, do very Unhappily bear date the very same day, *September* the 3d, of the very same year 1687, for the same Woman, under different Names.

First here are the Forged Recommendations, pretended to be from Archbishop *Sancroft*, of *Mary Hutt*, both as *Mary Jones*, and *Mary Smith*, to the Lords Bishops of *Chichester*, *Norwich*, and *St. Asaph*: The Body of these Letters being an Imitation of his Graces own Hand, but all the Subscriptions Counterfeited to Admiration.

Numb. I.

My Lord,

THis is to *acquent* your Lordſhip, that one Mr. *Robert Jones*, Rector of *Aſhford* in my *Dioceſſe*, is a Priſoner for Debt, occaſioned by Suretyſhip; He is a Perſon well known to me, and deſerves our Aſſiſtance. I hope you will therefore give his Wife (who will ſuddenly attend your Lordſhip) Licence to Ask and Receive the Charity of your Dean and Chapter, towards her Husbands Freedome, as we in our *Dioceſſe* have done. I am,

Lambeth, *June* 11. 1687.

Your Loving Friend and Brother,
W. Cant.

To the Lord Biſhop of *Chicheſter.*

My Lord,

THis is to *acquent* your Lordſhip, That one Mr. *John Smith*, Rector of *Aſhford* in my *Dioceſſe*, is a Priſoner for Debt, occaſion'd by Suretyſhip; He is a Perſon well known to me, and deſerves our Aſſiſtance. I hope you wil therefore (as others of our Brethren have done) extend your Charity towards his Freedome; and likewiſe Recommend his Diſtreſſed Condition to your Dean and Chapter, or in his abſence to the Subdean; I am,

Lambeth, *Sept.* 3. 1687.

My Lord,

Your Loving Friend and Brother,
W. Cant.

To the Lord Biſhop of *Norwich.*

My Lord,

THis is to *acquent* your Lordſhip, that one Mr. *Robert Jones*, Rector of *Aſhford* in my *Dioceſſe*, is a Priſoner for Debt, occaſion'd by Suretyſhip; He is a Perſon well known to me, and deſerves our Aſſiſtance. I hope you will therefore extend your Charity toward his

Freedome, as we in our *Dioceſſe* have done: And likewiſe give his Wife (who will ſuddenly attend your Lordſhip) Licence to Ask and Receive the Charity of your Dean and Chapter. *I* am,

My Lord,

Lambeth, Sept. 3. 1687.

Your Loving Friend and Brother.

W. Cant.

This Letter was Seal'd with a Biſhops Seal and a Wafer; and the Stamp under-mark'd on the back of it, to ſignifie what part of the Town it came from.

To the Lord Biſhop of St. Aſaph. (IV)

Secondly, Here is a Forged Letter from Dr. *Fauconberge*, Secretary to my Lord Archbiſhop, accompanying that Letter to the Lord Biſhop of *Norwich*; wherein is a falſe Liſt of what Sums other Churches and Church-Men had given, to excite his Lordſhip and his Church and Dioceſe by thoſe Examples.

Numb. II.

May it pleaſe your Lordſhip, *Sept.* 3. 87.

I Am Commanded by my Lords Grace of *Canterbury* to ſend this as a Cover to the enclos'd; and to let your Lordſhip know, that Mr. *Robert Smith* (Brother to the Priſoner) is appointed as the Receiver. Therefore your Lordſhip is humbly deſir'd, to tranſmit by Bill of Exchang, your Lordſhips Charity, together with the Dean's and Chapters

Chapters to the aforesaid *Robert Smith*, Living in *Maiden-lane* in *Westminster*, and so soon as your Lordship possibly can.

Your Lordships, &c.

Hon Fauconberge.

I am likewise Commanded to Transmit you the Names of those that have already given.

By the

LOrd Archbishop of *Canterbury*	20	00	00
Dean and Chapter of *Canterbury*	45	00	00
Bishop of *London*	10	00	00
Bishop of *Ely*	10	00	00
Dean and Chapter of *Ely*	8	00	00
Bishop of *Rochester*	4	00	00
Dean and Chapter thereof	7	00	00
Bishop of *Winchester*	12	Guinnys.	
Dean and Chapter thereof	9	00	00
Bishop of *Sarum*	5	00	00
Dean and Chapter thereof	12	00	00
Bishop of *Chichester*	4	00	00
Dean and Chapter thereof	5	00	00
Bishop of *Exon*	4	00	00
Dean and Chapter of *Exon*	10	00	00
Bishop of *Bath* and *Wells*	5	00	00
Dean and Chapter thereof	5	00	00
University of *Oxford*	25	00	00

Thirdly, Here are the Letters of those Three Bishops Written at that time, acknowledging that they were every one Deceiv'd by an Imposture so well managed; Tho' they were some of the Archbishops most Fa-

miliar Friends, and perfectly acquainted with his Graces Hand.

Numb. III.

May it please your Grace,

I Have return'd the Letter which came to me in your Graces Name on the behalf of Mr. *Jones*, pretended to be of your Dioceſe; and now find enough in it to have made me ſuſpect the Cheat: But your Graces Name, (too well Counterfeited) and the great Deference I make to it, ſuperſeded all further Conſideration. And altho' I communicated it to the Dean and Chapter, (who are not unacquainted with your Graces Hand) yet none of them ſaw through it. It is much to be fear'd, that the Cheat is ſtill carried on, and too ſucceſsfully: For he muſt be more Sagacious than I am, whom ſuch a Letter coming by the Poſt, then followed within two or three days by the Woman her ſelf, would not impoſe upon. After all, I am much more concerned for the Abuſe that is put upon your Grace, than for that little which I ſuffer'd by it; and heartily wiſh the Cheat detected and diſcovered, that your Grace's Name may be no longer Proſtituted to ſo vile a purpoſe, whilſt ſo great a Veneration is paid to it by all good Men. I am,

My Lord,

Your Graces, &c.

To my Lord Archbiſhop of *Canterbury*'s Grace.

John Ciceſtr.

May it please your Grace, *Norwich, Sept.* 29. 87.

IN Purſuance of the enclos'd Recommendation, I applied my ſelf to Mr. Dean and the Prebends of this Church for their Charity towards the Relief of Mr. *John Smith*, Rector of *Aſhford*

Aſhford in your Graces Dioceſe, as the letter ſets forth. Mr. Dean, and the Prebends, allotted Five pound to Mr. *Smith*, which Sum, with my own Mite, would have made up 10 *l.* and this Sum was to be paid by Mr. Dean at his arrival in *London*; and of this I gave a hint to Dr. *Patman* in my Letter to him: But ſince we learn from the *Gazette*, That the whole Contrivance was a Cheat and a Forgery; and for the further diſcovery of it, I have ſent the enclos'd to your Grace. I am

Your Graces, &c.

To my Lord Archbiſhop of *Canterbury* his Grace.

William Norwich.

May it pleaſe your Grace. *Sept.* 6. 87.

I Have receiv'd your Grace's Letter of the 3d inſtant by this Poſt; the effect of it is to beſpeak the Charity of this Church for one Mr. *Robert Jones*, Rector of *Aſhford*, who is a Priſoner on the account of Suretyſhip; the Cauſe for which he ſuffers, does not at all commend his Suit; but that which follows does very much: That he is known to your Grace; and that you judge him to be one that deſerves our aſſiſtance: On that account he ſhall have it from me in ſuch proportion, as your Grace ſhall think fit; and of that your Grace ſhall judge at my coming up to *London*, which will be about ſix weeks hence, if God permit; or if you will not judge, I will Tax my ſelf as I would do any other Man in my Condition, and ſo much beyond, as I ought to be ſtricter to my ſelf than any other. I am, my good Lord,

To my Lord Archbiſhop of *Canterbury* his Grace.

Your Graces, &c.

Will. Aſaph.

Adj.

My most Honoured Lord, *Sept.* 13. 87.

I Send your Grace here enclos'd, that piece of Forgery which came this day Sennight, as a Letter from your Grace. I ſaw your Name to it ſo well Counterfeited, that I did not examine the Hand in the reſt of the Letter; nor took notice of the falſe ſpelling in the word *acquent*, and twice *Diſtreſſ*; which I ſhould have boggled at otherwiſe. But your Name which I doubted not to be of your Grace's own Hand, was enough to aſſure me the whole Letter was yours. And whether you writ it in haſt, or had an *Amanuenſis* to write it, I was not curious to examine; or whether it was Forg'd, which I now underſtand was the caſe. The Woman Rogue, by whom, or for whom it was Forg'd, having thus made ready the bait, and hang'd me upon it, came and drew up her Line the next day; There ſhe had 5 *l.* upon her Hook; and with it ſhe got a Subſcription into her Paper, which ſhe carried forward to *Bangor*; and there, I doubt not, having baited the Water with a Letter from your Grace, and having a Subſcription to ſecond it, ſhe hook'd as much more between the Biſhop and the Dean. I am, My Good Lord,

To my Lord Archbiſhop of *Canterbury* his Grace.

Your Graces, &c.

Will. Aſaph.

Having now followed *Robert Young*, and his pretended Wife to the end of the firſt great turn of their Affairs in *England*, it is but reaſonable, that I ſhould uſe the ſame exactneſs as I have done in that part of their Story which was acted in *Ireland*, that I ſhould declare by what means I have had the certain Information, which enabled me to Trace them

them ſo narrowly alſo in this part of their Adventures.

It was ſoon after my Deliverance from them on *June* the 13th, that I deſired Mr. *Needham* Chaplain to Archbiſhop *Sancroft*, to let him know what danger he had eſcap'd, together with my ſelf and others. Immediately thereupon his Grace gave him notice of his own former Rencounters with the ſame *Robert Young*: And withal order'd him to let me have a ſight of moſt of the foregoing Papers.

Having peruſed them, and perceiving they would effectually contribute to the farther Confuſion of the Wretch, I entreated his Grace to reſign them to my diſpoſal, and to recollect what he could farther remember on this Subject.

To which Requeſt I received theſe following Anſwers from that excellent Prelate: Whoſe Name alone would be ſufficient Authority in Matters of far greater Concernment than this; there being no good Man that I know of, who has him not in the higheſt Eſteem for his Integrity and Piety.

A Letter from Archbiſhop Sancroft *to Me: Dated,* July 13, 1692.

My Good Lord and Brother, Freſingfield, July 13.

I Have juſt now receiv'd yours, of *July* the 5th, and having read it over, immediately take up my Pen to tell you, That in Compliance with your earneſt Deſires, I give up, and conſign into your Lordſhip's Hands, all the Papers concerning *Young* the *Falſary*, which I ſent to Mr. *Needham*, to be made uſe of, and diſpoſed, as your Lordſhip, in your Diſcretion, ſhall think fit; with this Caution notwithſtanding; That, whereas there are amongſt them ſome Letters of my old dear Friend's, Biſhop *Lloyd* of *Norwich*, and Biſhop *Lloyd* of St. *Aſaph* (who are both at preſent, in or about *London*) no uſe be made of them, without their Privity, nor any further then they ſhall Allow.

As for the Narrative you deſire, you ſhall certainly have it, as well as my old leaking Memory will enable me to form it: But though I muſt take the Longer time for that; yet becauſe you tell me you long (with ſome Impatience) for my Anſwer to the reſt; I have haſten'd to give it (and my kindeſt Reſpects) with that Readineſs and Heartineſs, which becomes,

My Lord,

For the Lord Biſhop of *Rocheſter.* *Your Lordſhip's,* &c.

A Second Letter from Archbiſhop Sancroft *to me. Dated* Aug. 24, 1692.

My Lord,

I Remember well what I wrote to you in a former Letter, concerning the Narrative you deſir'd, of what paſt heretofore between me and *Robert Young*. But when I ſate down to make

make it, I found two things lying directly in my way. First, I was credibly informed, that you had wholly laid by your design; and Secondly, Many years having past since those things happen'd, and I having lately only cursorily read over the Papers I sent you; my memory did not serve me (without them) to judge where they were defective, or how any incoherence in them might be supplied.

But now that I am assur'd, That you are (in good earnest) going on with what you intended; and understand what are the particulars that remain still obscure to you in those Papers; I will not only endeavour to clear those, but the rest of the Story as far as I can remember it.

He was twice with me at *Lambhith*; the first time (within a Month after he was degraded at *Dublin*) to desire some employment in the Church; in order to which, he produc'd Letters of Orders, which I very much suspected. For besides that they were not (as I remember) in Form, and in the usual Style; there was fix'd to them, with a Label, a great Episcopal Seal, such as we put to our Leases; which, upon my objecting it, he affirm'd to be the Custome of the Bishops in *Ireland*. And when I told him I had no Employment void in my Gift, he was very earnest with me to recommend him to the Bishop of *London*; with a design, I suppose, that he might have a Copy to write by in his intended Forgeries: but I refused.

Some time after he came again (since when I never saw him) to desire me to recommend him to be a *Chaplain* to a *Ship*, or in some of the *Plantations*; which I again refus'd (for in truth I never liked him from the beginning) telling him, That it was a part of the *Bishop* of *London*'s Province.

In the mean time, having acquaintance with Dr. *Foley* (the Archbishop of *Dublin*'s Chaplain) who was then in *England*; I sent to him for some better information concerning this importunate bold Man; which produc'd those Letters which are in your Hands.

About this time he sent his Woman to *Windsor*, with a Petition to the King, pretending that her Husband going to be Minister at one of the Foreign Plantations, was taken by the *Turkish* Pirates; and begging a share in the Money Collected

for the Redemption of Captives. His Majesty referr'd the Petition to me and my Lord of *London*; which yet I never saw nor heard of till a good while after. In the mean while they had Forg'd a Report upon the Reference, under both our Hands and Seals, to bring them into a share of the Redemption-Money.

By this time, or before, he had gotten (I know not how) one of those Instruments by which we grant Places in our Hospitals of *Croydon* and *Canterbury*; They are written in an expanded Sheet of Paper, with a Margin broad enough to receive the Seal which we use on those occasions; and which was usually placed about the middle of the Instrument. This Margin he tore off, with my Subscription under it, finding room enough above it to croud in a Licence to beg in three Dioceses, which I wonder any Man should take to be mine; both because I had upon all occasions refused to give (even worthy persons) Licence to Beg; and because I could not (mean as I am) be reasonably thought so silly, as to bespeak three Dioceses in so wretched a Stile, and in such a wretched scroll of Paper.

However, this gross Sham, (improbable as it was) prevailed with many of my Friends, and he drained a great deal of Money from them, till some one (I have forgot who) seiz'd that miserable, pitiful, slip of torn Paper, (the most contemptible, that ever had the Impudence to set up for a *Metropolitical* Rescript, since the Order came first into the World) and sent it to me, which was the first notice I ever had of his Practises.

After this, for several years I heard not one Word of *Robert Young*, nor knew what was become of him; till at length, enter Mrs. *Jones*, (in truth, as it prov'd *Young*'s Wife, or worse) pretending to be the Wife of a *Clergyman* in my Diocese, then a Prisoner for a vast Debt, carrying in her hand a Letter of mine, (wholly forg'd) to desire the Contributions of the *Bishops* and *Clergy* for his Enlargement. I knew I had no such Clerk in *Kent*, and though she chang'd the Name to *Smith* (I think) of *Ashford* in *Kent*, yet still about she went with Forg'd Letters, applying her self to my particular Friends, who, with their *Clergy*, were very bountiful to her. When I had notice

notice of it, I disavow'd the Letters, as I had reason, there being manifest Characters of Forgery upon them; and sent to the Bishop of St. *Asaph* to lay hold of her, and send her up to *London*; but she escap'd us.

Whilst she was at Work so far off, *Young* himself was playing the like pranks in my Native Country, where he got a great deal of Money; but coming to *Bury St. Edmonds*, Dr. *Battely*'s Brother (a Magistrate there) observing his Impudence, sent for a *Constable*, and brought him (and his Quean, who by this time was come to him) before the *Recorder*, &c. by whom, upon Examination, they were Imprison'd there. You have the Copies of the Examinations, and his Original Letters and Confessions to me; and also Copies of the Informations against him, that he Swore in Prison he would have my Blood; but how he got out of Prison, (unless it were because no body Prosecuted him) Dr. *Battely* can better inform you than I, to whom therefore I refer you.

My Lord, thus far I have gone, out of my desire to serve you, and shall be ready in any particular to give satisfaction, as my old weak Memory will enable me; for I confess, I most earnestly long to see this foul Impostor Detected, and Right done to so many Innocent Persons, whose Ruin he hath sought in the basest manner. I am, My Lord,

Fresingfield, *Aug.* 24. 1692. *Your Lordships*, &c.

To the Lord Bishop of *Rochester*.

As far as my Intelligence goes, the only Punishment which the Authors of all these last gross Cheats, sustained after they had found them so long a time successful, was, that they were pursued through *England* by

theſe two Advertiſements in the printed *Gazettes* of the Year 1687.

Advertiſement in the *Gazette*, *Sept.* 22. 1687.

WHereas a Woman, pretending to be the Wife of R. Jones, *Rector of* Aſhford *in* Kent, *hath gone about* England *and* Wales, *begging the Charity of ſeveral Perſons, for the Relief of her ſaid Husband, whom ſhe pretended to be in Priſon for Debt; and hath both Forg'd ſeveral Letters, as from his Grace the Lord Archbiſhop of* Canterbury *to ſeveral Biſhops, and received ſeveral Sums of Money. Theſe are to give notice, that there is no ſuch Perſon as* R. Jones *Rector of* Aſhford, *and that his Grace never wrote any ſuch Letters. It is therefore deſired, that if the ſaid Woman can be met with, ſhe be apprehended and dealt with according to Law.*

Advertiſement in the *Gazette*. *Oct.* 6. 1687.

WHereas a Woman, pretending to be the Wife of R. Jones, *Vicar of* Aſhford *in* Kent, *and now in Priſon for Debt; and one who calls himſelf* Smith, *and pretends alſo to be Vicar of* Aſhford, *have forged ſeveral Letters as from the Archbiſhop of* Canterbury, *and begging up and down in ſeveral Parts of* England *and* Wales, *have received ſeveral Sums of Money. Theſe are to give notice, that neither of theſe Men is Vicar of* Aſhford, *and that the Archbiſhop never wrote any ſuch Letters. It is therefore deſired, that if the ſaid Perſons can be met with, they be apprehended, and be dealt with according to Law.*

But how they got clear of this ill Affair, whether they ſuffered any Corporal Puniſhment for their going under the Names of *Jones* and *Smith*, as they had done for thoſe of *Green*, I am not yet certainly informed. For the preſent, I am rather inclined to believe that they eſcap'd unpuniſhed, becauſe the meek Archbiſhop *Sancroft* would not permit them.

them to be Profecuted in his Name; for which they have ſince well rewarded him.

But this I only ſpeak upon Conjecture; and the Truth is, it is impoſſible that the World ſhould ever have an exact Account of Mr. *Robert Young*'s whole Life, unleſs he himſelf would be pleaſed to write the Counterpart of his Story.

But it was not long after this, that *Robert Young* and *Mary* took the ſhort Turn they had at *Bromely*; which was indeed ſo ſhort, that they were vaniſhed thence before I knew of their being there. Only as to the Man's ill Character, during that time, and his frequent Boaſting of his Abilities in Forgery, I am furniſhed by a worthy Gentleman my Neighbour, with the enſuing Certificate.

THeſe are to certify, that during the ſhort time of Mr. Robert Youngs *officiating at* Bromley-College, *which, as I remember, was about ſix Weeks, he went under an ill Character of his wicked Living; particularly, I have heard him brag, before Mr.* Roman *and others, that he could counterfeit any Mans Hand in* England.

Witneſs my Hand the 1ſt of September, 1692.

Walſingham King.

Now becauſe this is the proper Place, I have here ready for my Reader (as I promiſed him) the entire Letter which *Robert Young* wrote

wrote out of *Newgate* to the Widows of the College at *Bromley*; whereof I cited before ſome honeſt Truths, and quaint Expreſſions.

Madam,

BEgging your Pardon for this my rude Attempt, I humbly crave Leave thus to ſet forth my preſent miſerable Condition unto you, and all the reſt of the worthy Gentlewomen belonging to that Colledge, to whom, I hope, you will communicate this. I have been almoſt twelve Months a Priſoner, confin'd, deſtitute of Friends, Money, &c. ſo that it hath been purely the Providence of God that hath hitherto ſupported me. I thank God, my Confinement was not occaſion'd either by Murder or Felony, or any ill Thing; but an Iriſhman (whom I pray God forgive) ſwore againſt me, that by Vertue of Bils, I raiſed Money for the Uſe of King *James*. Now, to make you ſenſible that I never acted any ſuch thing, and that thoſe things which were laid to my Charge were as falſe as Hell; you may remember, that during my Abode among you, and amidſt the worſt of Times, I was one who ſtood up for the Vindication of the Church of *England*, and altogether againſt the Roman Catholicks; whereas, if I had not a Member of the Church of *England* been, then was the Time (when Authority was on my Side) to lift up my Head: yet at the ſame time (as you can all bear me Witneſs) I ſtood in the Gap againſt their Doctrine and clandeſtine Actions. All which, methinks, is ſufficiently demonſtrable, that they have laid to my Charge, things that I know not of: Yet for the ſame, a Fine was laid upon me, under which I now labour, to the great Diſquiet of my Soul, and the Starving of my Natural Body; which, if not ſupported, wil ſuddenly (being not able to ſubſiſt any longer) be transformed into its firſt Matter. May it therefore pleaſe you, and all the vertuous Gentlewomen of that Colledge, ſo far to caſt a compaſſionate Eye on my moſt miſerable and deſpicable Condition, as to extend your charitable Benevolence toward my Enlargement here hence, and ſend it me this Week by a truſty Hand. The Reaſon why I begg it this Week, is becauſe I have employed one to remove me to the *Kings-Bench*, where I expect my Freedom, and in the mean time, ſome Employ wherby to keep Body and Soul together; but if continued here, I ſhal periſh out of pure Want. Therefore I hope you will putt on Bowels which are Human, and lend your helping Hand to a fallen Brother. I pray God incline

your

your Hearts to do things for Gods Glory, and the Good of the Church: and I begg leave to remain,

Your most humble Servant,
and affectionate Brother in the Lord,

Robert Young.

My most humble Service to you all in general, whom I pray God keep and support now and for ever.

I have lately given me 30 *s.* toward my Removal to the *Kings Bench*, but it will cost 4 *l.*

Direct for me at the Masters Side Debtors in *Newgate*, *London*.

For Mrs. *Young*, or Mrs. *Craige*, Widows, or any other Widows of the Colledge in *Bromley* in *Kent*.

I am now attending *Robert Young* in his next Stages to St. *Albans* and *Lichfield*, where he managed his Business for a time without *Mary Hutt*, and sometime in Consort with her, and both times like himself.

The Season indeed of his coming to, and acting in these Places, was, of all others, most proper to conceal the Impudent Knaveries he practised there, and in the Parts thereabout; it being towards the latter end of the Year 1688, and the beginning of 1689, the very time when all Mens Minds were amus'd with greater Matters, and intent upon the Revolution of the Government which happen'd during that Interval. For as it is usually found

found that the little mean Thieves and Pick-Purſes are wont to have the greateſt Harveſt in Places where there is the greateſt Buſtle and Croud, and where they find moſt Quarrels and Frays: So this great Rogue could not wiſh for a fitter Occaſion to ſcape unperceived in his Cheats, than when there was ſuch an univerſal Combuſtion in all Parts of the Nation, and when Men were generally more ſollicitous to ſave their Lives than their Pockets.

And accordingly he made uſe of this Opportunity, both at St. *Albans* and *Lichfield*, to the beſt Advantage for his Deſigns. So that I find a world of new Matter riſing up before me; both that City, and that Town, and all thoſe Countries reſounding to this day with the Noiſe of his, and his pretended Wifes Forgeries, and other their lewd Pranks.

But out of meer Compaſſion to my Reader, and indeed Wearineſs in my ſelf, I will reduce into as narrow a Compaſs as I can, that Part of their Hiſtory, which elſe perhaps would have prov'd more copious than any of the reſt.

It may therefore ſuffice, that I only give ſome few undoubted Proofs to juſtifie what I have

I have already affirmed of his Behaviour at St. *Albans*, and at *Lichfield*. First, Here are two Letters to give an Account of his general Converſation at *Lichfield*, and then ſeveral other Letters and Informations concerning the notorious Forgeries which he practiſed on Mr. *Clark* of *Northampton*, Mr. *Mathew* of *Daventry*, and Mr. *Olds* of *Coventry*; and alſo the Depoſitions of *Robert Young*'s own Servant, and *Mary Young* her ſelf at *Lichfield*. And laſtly, the forged Bills and Letters of Advice, by which they accompliſhed all theſe Cheats.

First, A Letter to me concerning *Robert Young*'s Life, during his Stay at *Lichfield*, from a Reverend Clergy-man of that Cathedral.

My Lord, Lichfield, July 25, 1693.

I Received this Morning your Lordſhips of the 20th inſtant, and have here enclos'd as much as the ſhortneſs of time would permit, of *Young*'s Carriage in this Place. I ſhall be glad if this may help to clear the Innocent, and detect the the fraud of Villains.

Robert Young, who pretended to be an *Iriſh* Clergy-man, and to have good Church Preferment in *Ireland*, and a conſiderable Temporal Eſtate, lived for ſome time in *Lichfield*, and lodg'd with one *Moreton* who kept a publick Houſe

During his being here he was obſerv'd to have ſtore of Co'd and Silver, and ſome Plate.

He kept his Man and two Horſes, and rode often abroad; but as many obſerved, more like an Highway-man than a Di-

vine. Before he left this place, he went to Lodge at a private House, where the Gentlewomans Maid was Debauch'd, and some say by him

He made Love to a Gentlemans Daughter in *Tamworth*, and in all likelihood had Married her, if a Woman had not come hither whom he own'd to be his Wife.

'Tis said, he would have given his Man Money to have Kill'd this Woman whom he own'd to be his Wife, which when the Man refus'd to do, he attempted to Kill him.

He was Arrested here first for Debt, and after for taking Bills of Exchange out of the Mail, and from this Prison was remov'd to *Newgate*. There is one Mr. *Mathew* at *Daventry*, who (as I hear) can give more account of *Young*'s Rogueries. I am,

Your Lordships, &c.

L. A.

Secondly, The Substance of a Letter to Sir *R. R.* from a Person of Worth and Credit at *Lichfield*, to the same purpose as the former.

SIR,

I Have made the utmost Inquiry I can into *Young*'s Behaviour while he was at *Lichfield*, which was not above a Quarter of a Year, or thereabout. When he came first hither, he was very full of Money and Plate; pretended to be a Dean in *Ireland*, and to have a plentiful Estate there, and to have brought the Money and Plate thence. So soon as he became a little Acquainted, he began to inquire out for a fit Person to make him a Wife, and presently fell in League with a Woman at *Tamworth*, (who was to have 1000 *l.* to her Portion) and had prevail'd with her to Marry him, as he himself boasted. But while it was *in fieri*, there came a Woman hither, who said she

was

was his Wife, and who, doubtless, was so; and the Villain (as his Man reported) would have hired him to have Kill'd her, and upon his refusal endeavour'd to Kill him. Before he came to *Lichfield*, it seems he had been for some time at St. *Albans*, where, by Courting the Post-Masters Daughter, he obtain'd the Priviledge of looking into the Packets, and by that means got divers Letters into his Custody, which had Bills for Return of Money enclos'd in them; with which he Posted his Wife to *London*, who there receiv'd a good part of the Money. This we know by the Relation of Mr. *Olds*, a Mercer in *Coventry*, and of another Mercer in *Daventry*. The former of which coming hither, and surprizing him while he had Money and Place left, got as much in Value as satisfied his Bill. And the latter, being sent hither by him, in two or three days after, seiz'd his Person, and got him Committed to the Town-Goal, and thence remov'd him to *London*, where he was Tryed and Convicted of these, and some other such Roguish Practises, and Pillory'd for them. Sir, I am, *&c.*

Thirdly, A Letter to me from Mr. *Allestree* Minister of *Daventry*, touching *Robert Young*'s Demeanor at *Lichfield*, and particularly his Forging Bills of Exchange, under the Names of Mr. *Olds*, and Mr. *Mathew*.

My Lord, *Daventry*, *Sept.* 20. 1692.

I Have in Obedience to your Lordships desires, inquired concerning the Villanies that *Robert Young* has perpetrated here, and made this place the Stage thereof; and I am furnish'd with such unquestionable Intelligence, and such abundance of Matter of this kind, that does sufficiently discover the Disposition of the Man, and the Pravity of his Mind, that he is prepar'd by Nature, Custom, or Indigence, for any sort of Wickedness: So that knowing certainly the many Cheats he has Acted here, and in our Neighbourhood, without Compunction

or Remorse, it is no wonder to me, that by degrees he is risen at last to attempt the Life of others, by the Trade of Forgery, and Swearing Men into Treasonable Acts and Associations.

About the latter end of the year 1688, we were alarm'd with the News of a Notorious Cheat that had been practis'd upon Mr. *Shipton* in *Friday-street*, by a Villain who had Forg'd the Hand of Mr. Justice *Mathew*, of this Town, and Copied his Letters so exactly, that he himself could not discover the difference by the strokes of the Pen, or disown the Writing upon view, but only by being Conscious to himself that he had never Written, or Set his Hand to any Paper of that moment and importance; so that Mr. *Shipton*, who was his Correspondent in *London*, was easily impos'd upon by the similitude of Hands, and paid 200 *l.* upon a pretended Bill drawn upon him from Mr. *Mathew*. When the following Post gave notice of the Payment of the Money, and also of the Order that was followed therein, all endeavours were speedily us'd to Apprehend and Discover the Impostor, and many Journies were undertaken into several Countries, in pursuit of him; but all Inquiry and Search for the detection of the Theft, and of the Author, were fruitless and unsuccessful, till it happen'd, after some considerable distance of time, that the News of this Cheat spreading far and wide, one Mr. *Olds* of *Coventry*, sent Word to Mr. *Mathew*, that he had been formerly Cheated of 14 *l.* that he had discover'd the Rogue that had Forg'd his Hand, and that he had given him satisfaction for his Money. He did not know but this might be the Man that had put the like Trick upon him in a greater Sum, and referr'd it to his Consideration, whether it would be worth his while to go so far as *Lichfield* for Enquiry and Satisfaction. It will not be improper in this place, my Lord, to trace things from the beginning, and Examine how Mr. *Olds* came by this Intelligence, that help'd him to the recovery of his Money; the Cheat that was put upon him was of an Ancient standing, and he had been along time under the sence of the loss of his Money, without any expectation ever to retrieve it. Now this *Young*, who had practis'd these Rogueries upon him, and divers others, and by these Frauds had lin'd his Pockets with a competent Sum, both of Gold

and

and Silver, repairs to *Lichfield* in a decent Habit; pretends himself an *Irish* Proteſtant and Refugee, one that was Perſecuted for Righteouſneſs, and had loſt all for the ſake of the Goſpel. The Dean and Prebendaries believe him, and receive him with a great deal of Civility, Charity, and Humanity, permitting him to Preach in their ſeveral Courſes, that ſo their Benevolence to him might be greater, and ſeem like an Act of Juſtice, and the Diſcharging of a Debt.

In this Pomp, with all manner of Accommodation, he reſides along time among them at *Lichfield*, and follows the Sports that were ſuitable to the Seaſon, whilſt his Wife, by his Inſtructions, is carrying on her uſual Cheats at *London*. Now having repreſented himſelf a Batchelor, he made his Court to a young Woman, and had advanced far in her Eſteem; but the Detection of his Rogueries broke off the Intreague. For his Wife ſending him word that he was coming down to him, he went forth one Morning with his Servant (who carried his Gun after him) a Shooting, and there propoſed to him the Killing of her, offering him a great Reward for his Pains. But the Motion being rejected with Abhorrence, he threatned to be revenged of him, and cut his Throat.

The Man believing his Maſter was very ſerious in his threatnings, and that he would accompliſh his Malice, when privacy and Night favour'd him, run away from his Service; and knowing the Cheat, that had been acted upon Mr. *Oldis*, repair'd as faſt as he was able, to *Coventry*, to give him notice of it; and he accordingly went down to *Lichfield*, Charg'd Mr. *Young* with the Forgery, who rather than he would hazard the loſing of his Credit and his Station with the Prebends, gave him ſatisfaction immediately.

And now, my Lord, I am arriv'd at the point of time, which made way for the Diſcovery of Mr. *Mather*'s Cheat; the account of which I will chooſe to give you in his own Words, and inſert in the body of this Letter.

"About the latter end of *February* 1688. one *Mary Young* had "a Bill of Nine Pound on Mr. *Shipton*, which ſaid Sum ſhe re- "ceived the 4th of *March* following of him, at the Seven Stars "in *Fryday-ſtreet*. On the 19*th*, and on the 21*ſt* of the ſaid *March* "(hotherto Letters of Caſh concerns were Opened, Tranſcribed,

and

" and Counterfeited; and advice given of a 200*l.* Bill, which " was also Counterfeited; upon which Mr. *Shipton* paid to the " said *Mary Young* 200*l.* the 21*th* of *March* following. *Robert* " *Young* lay at St. *Albans*, as was supposed, and by corrupting " the Postmaster there, had opportunity of Counterfeiting my " Letters: Some time after, the said *Mary Young* was taken at the " *Maiden-head* and *Three Kings* in *Cheapside*, with a Counterfeit " Bill on Mr. *Billers*, pretended to be drawn by Mr. *Joseph Olds* " of *Coventry*. She was then charg'd with the Cheat she had put " upon Mr. *Shipton*, and was committed to *Woodstreet* Counter, " from whence she remov'd her self to the *King*'s *Bench* in *South-* " *wark*, and, when the Fire broke out there, made her Escape.

"About the 10*th* of *December* following I heard of their being " at *Lichfield*, and immediately went down Post, came thither " about 12 at Night, and in the Morning beset the House where " *Robert Young* Lodg'd; and after above an Hours search, found him " in the Cellar hidden under a stack of Furze. At his first ap- " prehension he own'd the Cheat, and offered his Globes and " Books for Satisfaction; but they being Refus'd, he denied all. " His Wife also said before the Magistrate, that was the first time " that ever he had seen her, tho' his Servant swore that they had " liv'd Years together, and that she had born him several Chil- " dren. From *Lichfield* they were brought to *London*, and tryed " the 15th of *January* 1689, where, upon full Evidence they " were found Guilty of Cheating and Forgery; and were Sen- " tenc'd to stand in the Pillory in *Cheapside*, and at the *Royal-* " *Exchange*, and Fin'd an 100 Marks; the First day of the Term " following to stand in the Pillory in *Westminster*, and fined an " 100 Marks more; His Wife the same Punishment, but her fine " was but 20 Marks.

My Lord, I should be very glad, *&c.* as, being

Your Lordships, *&c.*

Charles Allestree.

Fourthly,

Fourthly, A Letter from Mr. *Mathew*, a Juſtice of the Peace, confirming the former Relation as to his Part in it.

Mr Alleſtree,

I Have given my Lord Biſhop of *Rocheſter* as full an Account of that Raſcal *Young*, as time will permit; But if required, can get more particulars againſt him from *Northampton* and *Coventry* I ſhall be very glad if I can be inſtrumental to Clear my Lord from the Imputation this Villain has laid him under. Knowing how ready a great part of the World is to ſpeak Evil (eſpecially of their Sort) of Dignities. Pray, when you write to his Lordſhip, aſſure him that I am

Daventry, Sept. 12. 1692. His Lordſhips, &c.

Benj. Mathew.

Fifthly, The Information of *Joſeph Olds* of *Coventry* Mercer.

THE ſaid Informant maketh Oath, that Mr. Robert Young, *the Perſon now preſent, having cheated and defrauded him of a conſiderable Sum of Money* (viz. *in* May *or* June 1683, *by receipt of* 10 l. *part of a forged Bill of Exchange of* 100 l. *pretended to be drawn by this Deponent upon Mr.* John Billers. *of* London; *and in* Auguſt *laſt, by Receipt of* 34 l. 10 s. *ſurreptitiouſly received by the ſaid Mr.* Young, *or Order, by intercepting two Bills of Exchange, one drawn upon Mr.* Wootton *in the* Strand, *for* 20 l. *and the other upon* Joſeph Toovey *Cheeſmonger, for* 14 l. 10 s.) *The ſaid Mr.* Olds *did take out a* Capias *out of the Court of Record in the City of* Lichfield, *and the ſaid Mr.* Young *being privy to it, owned the Fraud, and made him Satisfaction thereof; and drew a Letter or Note, importing an Order, directed, as this Depoent remembers, to his Wife, and thereby required her to pay a certain Number of Pieces of Gold, to the Value of about* 7 l. *and that the Woman now preſent,* Mary Young, *did, purſuant thereto, bring the Number of Pieces of Gold, and*

delivered

delivered them to the said Mr. Young, *and that the said Mr.* Young *delivered them to this Deponent. This Deponent further saith, That Mr.* Bilbs *(this Deponents Correspondent at* London*) in his Letter to him, informed this Deponent, that he had received his Letter, or rather a Copy of it, with the Advice of drawing a Bill upon him for Payment of* 200 l. *at sight, to* Sarah Harris, *which Money he had not paid, but that the Person that brought it was secured, and proved to be the same that cheated Mr.* Shipton *of* 200 l. *under the Name of* Mary Young, *or Words to that effect,*

Capt. apud civit. Lichfield super Saeram. præd' Josephi Olds, 9° die Decembr. 1689, coram

Joseph Olds.

Thom. Marshall.
Will. Marshall.

City of Lichfield. *ff.* Sixthly, The Examination and Confession of *Mary*, the Wife of *Robert Young* Clerk, late of *Wapping*, near the *Eremitage-Stairs*, at the Sign of the Tobacco-Press. Taken the 9th Day of *December*, 1689.

THE said Examinate upon Oath saith, that she was married by Dean Dixy *in* Ireland, *at County* Cavan, *to the said* Robert Young *about nine years, in* July *last; and that the said Mr.* Young *then kept a Grammar-School there; and saith, that he was Benefic'd under the Bishop of* Kilmore's *Chaplain, Mr.* Crew *in* Ireland, *and had thereby* 30 l. per Annum. *That she hath had five Children by him, and that they are all dead. That she did go by Order from her Husband, the said* Robert Young, *with a Bill upon Mr.* Richard Shipton, *a Linnen-Draper at the Seven Stars in* Fryday-Street, London, *and drawn in the Name of Mr.* Mathew *of* Daventry *for* 200 l. *and did thereupon demand, and receive the said* 200 l. *from the said Mr.* Shipton, *about* February, March, *or* April *last, which Bill was delivered her by her said Husband, and the Money to him delivered by her. That her Husband told her, he gave the Post-Master of St.* Albans

bans *ten or fifteen Guinea's to open the Packet, and to take out some Letters. But the Truth of this she knows not otherwise than by the Information of the said* Robert Young *her Husband. That her Husband and she came out of* Ireland *in* May *was twelve Months; but whether he was, or is in Holy Orders, she knows not, but believes he is: and says, that her Maiden Name was* Mary Hutt, *of County* Cavan *aforesaid.*

Capt. apud Civit. Lichfield, 9 die Decembr. 1689, coram — Mary Young.

Thom. Marshall.
Will. Marshall.

These are true Copies of the Informations taken upon Oath at the City of Lichfield, *before the Justices of the Peace of the said City, against* Robert Young, *the Day and Year aforesaid, which Original Informations remain in the Custody of me,*

5 Octob. 1692. — R. Wakefield

Town Clerk of the said City.

THE aforementioned Robert Young *and his Wife, being in the Custody of the Sheriff of the City and County of* Lichfield, *were delivered to a Messenger especially sent for them, in Obedience to a Warrant under the Hand and Seal of the Right Honourable* Charles *Earl of* Shrewsbury, Waterford *and* Wexford, *then Principal Secretary of State. Bearing Date the 16th Day of* December, 1689, *by the then Sheriff of the said City, about the 20th of the said Month.*

Witness my Hand, the 5th of October, 1692.

R. Wakefield.

Town-Clerk of Lichfield.

Seventhly, The Information of *James Young*, of the City of *Lichfield*, Vintner,

THE said Informant maketh Oath, that he knows Mr. Robert Young *Clerk, now present, and* Mary Young *now present, and that he believes her to be the said Mr.* Robert Young's *Wife, and hath known them live at* Wap-

ping *a quarter of a Year together, and Dine together, and Lye together; and that they formerly Lived together in* Dublin; *and that she had two Children by him there, and he owned her his Wife, and the Children to be his; and that since he came over to* England, *this Deponent lived with them in* Wapping *a quarter of a year; and that the said Mr.* Robert Young *frequented the Post-House in St.* Albans, *and that he courted the Post-Masters Daughter; and that he hath heard him say, the Ostler at the said Post-House (called* John) *brought him up the Bags out of the Pacquet, and he opened and took what Letters he pleased, and hath sent this Deponent (being then his Servant, to receive Monies upon Bills of Exchange that he had fetch'd from St.* Albans;) *namely* 14 l. 5 s. *from a Cheesmonger near the Cock in* Alderſgate-Street, London, *and allowed* 5 s. *for the speedy Payment of it; and* 20 l. *from a Man at the Sword and Helmet in the* Strand) *by another Bill intercepted by Mr.* Young *as aforesaid; which Bill this Deponent received by the said Mr.* Young's *Order, and delivered the Sum of* 20 l. *thereof to him. But this Deponent having not delivered the* 14 l. 5 s. *to the said Mr.* Young, *he searched this Deponent, and the said Deponent hid nine Guinea's, but never could find it since, and for that this Deponent would not go to London upon a Message to the said Mrs.* Young, *to bring her down into the Country, and Hang or Drown her coming down, for which he offered this Deponent* 6 l. *The said Mr.* Young, *near* Cannoſt Wood, *or* Weeford Park, *charged a Gun, and attempted to shoot this Deponent; but the Gun not going off upon twice Cocking, and his own Horse starting at the Snapping of the Gun, this Deponent wrested it from his Hand, and rode away with it, till he came to* Lichfield, *and then discharged it, and carried it home to the Talbot in* Lichfield.

Capt. & Jurat. apud Civit. Lichfield, 9° Die Decembr, 1689, coram

James Young.

Thom. Marshall.
Will. Marshall.

Eighthly, The further Examination and Information of *James Young*; taken at *Lichfield* aforesaid, the 14th Day of *December*, 1689.

THe said James Young *confesseth, that he hath heard the aforementioned Mr.* Robert Young *(during the time that he lived with the said* Robert Young) *confess that the aforementioned* Mary Young *had received above*

above 500 l. *for him in* London *within a Twelve-Month, by Bills of Exchange, forged, and surreptitiously obtained by him, namely,* 200 l. *from Mr.* Shipton, *and* 150 l. *from some other Persons, whose Names this Examinate hath now forgot; and that he received* 30 l. *himself from a Shopkeeper, and several other Sums of Money, which this Informant hath now forgot; and that he blamed this Examinate for not receiving two other Bills, which the said* Robert Young *would have had this Informant to have gone with, and demanded, and to have received. And then boasted, that he had himself received the* 30 l. *abovementioned, and that he had given the Post-Master's Son of St.* Albans 50 l. *by several times, to let him be Privy to the Post-Bags and Packet, and that he had made use of them on these like Occasions all this last Summer, and that he went by the Name of* Robert Kendall *in St.* Albans, *and used to be there sometimes a Week, sometimes a Fortnight together, though his Habitation was at* Wapping. *And says, That when this Informant refused to go with the Bills, as abovementioned, the said* Robert Young *called him Fool, and told him, if he were apprehended, it was but standing in the Pillory an Hour or two; and that it was nothing, he had stood in the Pillory himself, and had been imprisoned and laid in Bolts at* Suffolk *for a considerable time.*

Taken at *Lichfield* the 14th Day of *December*, 1689, before

Thom. Marshall.

James Young.

These are true Copies of the Informations taken at the City of Lichfield, *before the Justices of Peace of the said City, against* Robert Young, *the Day and Year abovesaid; which Original Informations remain in the Custody of*

R. Wakefield.

5 Octobr. 1692.

Town Clerk of the said City.

Ninthly, The true and the false Bills of Exchange, and false Letters of Advice, by which the several Forgeries upon Mr. *Clarke*, Mr. *Mathew*, and Mr. *Olds* were transacted.

First, The forged Bill to Mr. *Kendal*, to pay *Robert Young* 20 l. under the Name of *Robert Smith*.

Northampton, 10 July, 1688.

Mr. Kendall *pray pay one Thirſday next the Sume of twenty Pounds to Mr.* John Philips *or order for the uſe of Mr.* Robert Smith *for like Valew hear receivd and plaſe to accounte of your reall Friend* } 20-00-00

John Clarke.

This to Mr. *Jonathan* Kendall, at the 3 Pigens in *Milk-Street, London.*

The Indorſement.

Received the 16th *of* July 1688 *the full Contents of this Bill, being Twenty pounds, I ſay received* } 20l.- 00s.- 00d.

Per Rob. Smith.

Secondly, The true Bill of Mr. *Clarke* to Mr. *Kendall* for the ſame Sum, upon which the firſt was Forg'd.

Northampton, July 10th, 1688.

Mr. Kendall *pray pay one Thirſday next the Sume of twenty Pounds to Mr.* John Philips *or order for the uſe of Mr.* Robert Smith *for like vallew hear receivd and plaſe to accounte of your reall Friend* } 20l.- 00s.- 00d.

John Clarke.

This for Mr. *Jonathan Kendall* at the 3 Pigens in *Milk-ſtreet, London.*

The

The Indorſement.

July 17. 1688.

Paid Mr. Robert Smith *the Twenty Pounds back again at* Northampton,

John Clarke.

Thirdly, The Forg'd Bill from Mr. *Clarke* to Mr. *Kendall*, for 150 *l.* which *Mary Young* receiv'd under the name of *Mary Clarke*.

Northampton *the 5th of* Octob. 1688.

Mr. Kendall *I pray you pay one Tueſday next to Mrs.* Mary Clarke *the Sume of One hundred and Fifty Pounds for like vallew hear receiv'd and place to the account of your reall Freind* } 150*l.*-00*s.*-00*d.*

John Clarke.

To Mr. *Jonathan Kendall* at the 3 Pigens in *Milke-ſtreet, London.*

The Indorſement.

Received the 9th of Octob. 1688. *the full Contents of this Bill being One hundred and Fifty Pounds, ſay received* } 150*l.*-00*s.*-00*d.*

The Mark of
Mary ||| *Clarke.*

Fourthly, The Forg'd Letter of advice from Mr. *Clarke* to Mr. *Kendall*, where notice of 150 *l.* Bill is inſerted.

Mr. Kendall,

I Am not a littel trubled to hear Mr. Ridly *has not paid you as yet any Moneys; pray if you have not yet herd from him, ſend by the ſaid Poſt, and if that will not doe, pray let ſume perſon attend the concern, and what*

it

it costs charg to account. Pray also pres for the Bill of 5l. *lent Sr* Symon— *also the Bill last sent of Mr.* Willames *for* 4l. 8s. *I hope all will suddenly be paid, the Bill of* 20l. *dew to* Will. Oldam *is I sent last Munday, it promised to be broyt to your Shop in a littel time. I pray you send* 3 *or* 4 *lines under ritt to Marchant* Porter, *if the Bill is not accepted; but my Freind gives me all assurance it will be paid at the time. My Lord is a very swet Youth to take up* 40 l. *of me in suchs sort, and now to deall so by me; he owes me at lest* 150 l. *and promised I should have part of that suddenly, and now to serve me thus I take it ill from him, but I will right to him, and I pray you send me down that Note he gave me: if my Old Lord should know, he should deal so by me, he would be very angery.* [I have given a Bill to Mrs. *Clarke for* 150*l.* to be paid at sight; I intreat you to pay when she comes for it.] *Also I have given a Bill to Mr.* Bateman *for* 40*l. to be paid Alderman* Mausson *in* 6 *days after sight, also a Bill for* 25*l. to one* Mr. Ray *in a day or two after, or at sight. I am your reall Freind*

John Clarke.

This for Mr. *Jonathan Kendall*,
at the three Pigens in *Milke-*
street, London.

Northampton. *7th of* Octob. 1688.

Sir this is to desire you to send a Letter next Post to Mr. Swan *at* Harson *in* Esseeks 5 *miles from* Braintery *of whom I had the Bill of* 100*l. payable the* 14*th instant to Mr.* Kendall *for use of Mr.* John Whittorne, *for if you should fail my Freind Mr.* Kendall *of the Moneyes about that time, it might be a great prejudise to me. Sir, I am your Freind and Sarvant,*

John Clarke.

This for Marchant *Porter.*

Next follows the Cheat upon Mr. *Mathew* and Mr. *Shipton*, in the same order.

First, A true Bill from Mr. *Mathew* to Mr. *Shipton*, to pay *Mary Young* 9l.

Mr.

Mr. Shipton, *Februar* 21. 88.

Paye at sight of this my Bill to Mrs. Marey Young, *or to her Assines Nine Pounds for the same Summ receivd at the Wheat Sheaf at* Dentrey, *by*

Your Freind and Sarvant

Jonathan Mathew.

At the 7 Stares in *Fryday-street*; This.

The Indorsement.

Received the 4th of March 1688, *Nine Pounds in full of this Bill.* } 09*l.* 00*s.* 00*d.*

per Mary Young.

Secondly, The Forged Bill for 200 *l.* payable to *Mary Young*.

Mr. Shipton, *March* 18. 1688.

Paye at sight of this my Bill to Mrs. Marey Young, *or to her Assines* 200 l. *for the same Summ received of her at the Wheat Sheafe at* Dentry, *by*

Your Freind and Sarvant

At the 7 Stares in *Friday-street*, This. Jonathan Mathew.

The Indorsement.

Receiv'd the 21th of March 1688, *Two Hundred Pound in full of this Bill.* } 200*l.* 00*s.* 00*d.*

per Mary Young.

Thirdly, The Forg'd Letter of Advice, in which notice of the 200 *l.* is Inserted.

Sir,

I Have drawne a Bill on you to pay Mr. Sam. Bird, *or Order*, 30 *l.* [and a Bill likewise on you to pay Mrs. *Mary Young* 200 *l.* which pray pay her on Demand.] *Mr.* Woodward *will pay you* 200 l. *at least this Week or the next following. Mr.* Compion *for* Dev Wall 100 *and od Pounds for*

Your humble Sarvant

Daintry, 9 *March* 1688. Benj. Mathew.

To *Mr. Richard Shipton* at the 7 Stares in *Friday-street*, *London*.

Fourthly,

Fourthly, A true Letter of Mr. *Mathew*, in the Postscript whereof Forg'd, notice is given of the 200 *l.* Bill.

Sir,

BE Pleased to pay to William Peytue *Esqs or Order*, 66 *l.* *and place* 7 l. 10 s. *to Accompt of* Thomas Lucas *that I have received of him for your use; who am,*

I hope you have paid Mrs. *Mary Young* 200 *l.* and Mr. *Sam. Bird* 30 *l.*

Your humble Servant

Benj. Mathew.

Daintry, March 21. 1688.

Fifthly, Mr. *Mathew*'s Letter to Mr. *Shipton* upon notice of the Cheat.

Mr. Shipton,

I Have just now Received a Letter from you, wherein you say you have paid 200 l. *to* Mary Young. *I never Receiv'd any such Summ, nor drew any such Bill, therefore have sent* Tom *away Post to let you know it, that if possible you might retrieve it;*

Your Servant

Benj. Mathew.

My Father saith he never drew any such Bill, and Tom *will satisfie you he hath not.*

Daintrey, 8 *of the Clock Friday night.*

Sixthly, *Mary Young*'s Letter to Mr. *Mathew* after she had Cheated him of 200 *l.*

Sir,

THIS is to give you Notice, That I *have Borrowed on your Credit from Mr.* Shipton 200 *Pond*s, *and when I am able I will pay you again: The way I got your Letter out of the Post-Office in* London, *was by Peeing one of the Men that carried the Letters about; And by that Letter of Advice*

vice I procured another to be writ, ſo that you need not trouble your ſelf any more; I reſt,

M. Young *alias* Brown, *alias* Stewart, *alias* Forbus, *alias* Foner, &c.

For Mr. *Jonathan Mathew* at *Daintrey* near *Coventry*.
Theſe at the Wheat Sheafe.

Laſtly, Here are the Cheats upon Mr. *Olds* and Mr. *Billers*, all but the Bill of 20 *l.* which I have not ſeen.

Firſt, The Forg'd Bill of 100 *l.* from Mr. *Olds* to Mr. *Billers*, *June* 12. 1683. whereof *Robert Young* only got 10 *l.*

Brother Billers, *Coventry, June* 12, 1683.

AT ſight of my Bill, bearing date June 12, *be pleaſed to pay unto Mr.* Robert Young, *the Sume of a Hundred Pounds, which I have receiv'd from him: I have nothing els at preſent, but this Letter of Advice from him, who is*

To Mr. *Billers*, at the 3 Kings in *Cheapſide, London.*

Your Loving Brother and Servant, *Joſeph Olds.*

June 13th, 1683.

RECEIVED from Mr. John Billers *the Sume of ten Pounds. Sir, I ſay received by me,*

Rob. Young.

Secondly, A true Bill of *Samuel Croxal*, upon *Joſeph Young*, to *John Billers*, for uſe of Mr. *Olds*, for 14 *l.* 10 *s.* *Aug.* 5, 1689. But received by *Robert Young*'s Man, upon account of a forged Indorſement.

T . . Friend

Friend *Joseph Young*, The 5th of *Aug.* 1689.

At site of this my Bill, or ten days after, I pray pay to John Billers, *or order the Sume of fourteen Pounds ten Shillings, for the use of* Joseph Olds: *make good Payment, and plase it to the Accompt of thy Friend,*

At *Longlane* end, in *Aldersgate-Streate, London.* Sam. Croxall.

Indorsed thus.

Pray pay to my Man James Moorten *the within Bill. As witnesi my Hand* Aug. 14*th* 1689.

John Billers.

Received the 14*th* August 89, *fourteen Pounds ten Shillings, being the full Contents of this Bill for my Mr.* John Billers. 14—10—00

Per James Morton.

Thirdly, A true Bill of Mr. *Olds* for 10 *l.* to Mr. *Billers.* *Feb.* 21, 88, for *Sarah Harris.*

For 10—00—00 *Coventry* 21 *Feb.* 1688.

At sight pray pay unto Mrs. Sarah Harris *the Summe of ten Pounds value received of her as* per *Advice from*

To Mr. *John* and *Benj. Billers,* at the 3 Kings in *Cheapside London.*

Your loving Brother and Servant, *Joseph Olds.*

The Indorsement.

Received February 28th 1688 ten Pounds in full of this Bill,

Per Sarah S H Harris.
Her Mark.

Fourthly.

Fourthly, A False Bill for 200 *l.* from Mr. *Olds*, *Aug.* 10, 1689, by which *Sarah Harris*, alias *Mary Young* was discovered.

For 200-00-00, *Coventry* 10th *Aug.* 1689.

At sight pray pay unto Mrs. Sarah Harris *the Summe of two hundred Pounds value, received of her as* per *Advice from*

Your Loving Brother,
and Servant,
Joseph Olds.

Fifthly, A false Letter from Mr. *Olds*, wherein Advice of the 200 *l.* Bill is inserted. *Aug.* 11. 89.

Loving Brother,

Yours of the 6th Instant received— and mind the Contents— my Dear Wife is but poorly— and much as was when at Coventry *— she does continue using the Means went for— the Lord sanctify them for her Good— Pray accept and pay my* 200 l. *Bill at sight to Mrs.* Sarah Harris, *or order* No 78. *value of her self. Mr.* Watson *does not as yet accept the* 15 l. *Bill— says must first write to* London, *where his Money lays, and if can get it paid there, shall know next Week, with kind Respects and service to you and my Sister. Rest in some haste,*

Yours, Joseph Olds.

For Mr. *Benj. Billers*, at the 3 Kings in *Cheapside*.

Coventry, Aug. 11, 1689.

Perhaps my Reader may wonder, why I have been so accurate in setting down at large all these True and Forg'd Bills of Exchange, and Letters of Advice. But the Reason is,

I have had, for some time, and have now at this present, all the Originals of them in my keeping: I have shewn them to very many Persons of great Sagacity, both of the Nobility and Clergy, both of Scholars and Merchants: And after an exact View and Comparison of them distinctly Line by Line, Word by Word, Letter by Letter, I must say, all that have seen them were strangely astonish'd at the surprizing Similitude between the False Writings and the True: And they have done *Robert Young* this Justice, as to pronounce them all to be great Master-pieces of Forgery.

For my part, I will only add, That, since he could perform all this only with two Hands, how many Names soever he had; most certainly Wo would have been to all the Citizens and Traders of *England* by False Bills of Exchange; Wo to all the Noblemen, Bishops, and Gentlemen, by False Plots and Associations, if once *Robert Young* could have had his Wish, and been another *Briareus* with an Hundred Hands. *Which, I assure my Reader, is no slight of mine, but his own, in his Letter from* Bury *to Archbishop* Sancroft. Page 93.

My

My Reader having, by this Time, found that *Robert Young* had ſo often deſerv'd *Newgate*, will now, I ſuppoſe, be glad to ſee him brought thither to his own home.

But firſt (according to the courſe of my Method,) I muſt ſhew, that he was ſent for up from *Lichfield*, for Treaſonable Practices againſt the Government; which was done by this following Warrant from the Earl of *Shrewsbury*.

Charles Earl of *Shrewsbury*, *Waterford*, and *Wexford*, &c. One of the Lords of His Majeſties Moſt Honourable Privy-Council, and Principal Secretary of State.

THeſe are in His Majeſties Name to Authorize and Require you (taking a Conſtable to your Aſſiſtance) to Search for, Seize, and Apprehend the Perſons of Robert Young, Mary Young, and James Young, for Dangerous and Treaſonable Practices againſt the Government, and them to bring before me, to anſwer to ſuch Matters as ſhall on His Majeſties behalf be Objected againſt them: And for ſo doing, this ſhall be your Warrant. And herein all Mayors, Juſtices of the Peace, Conſtables, and other His Majeſties Officers Civil and Military, are to be Aſſiſting to you. Given at the Court at Whitehall, the 16th day of December, 1689.

Shrewsbury.

To *Henry Legat*, one of the Meſſengers of His Majeſties Chamber in Ordinary.

Robert Young, and *James Young*, } Left in Cuſtody the 30th of *December*, 89. by Mr. *Legat*.

By

By Virtue of this Warrant we find Mr. *Legat* the Meſſenger brought *Robert* from the Gaol at *Lichfield*, to the *Gate-houſe* in *Weſtminſter*; whither, as ſoon as he came to Town, he procured his Priſoner to be removed. For, being more cautious than ſome other Meſſengers ſince, he would not charge himſelf with the ſafe keeping of ſo dangerous a Gueſt, as he ſoon perceived him to be.

By the way, Mr. *Legat* himſelf has told me of one Paſſage, in their Journey up, which, I believe, my Reader will thank him for. It is, That *Robert Young* deſired him to ſtop and call at a little Ale-houſe upon the Road, where they found a very old mean Fellow, who (as *Robert* declared,) was his Father; and, which is yet more ſtrange, the old Fellow own'd him to be his Son.

And ſince that time, Mr. *Legat*, being in *Ireland*, met by chance the ſame old Man in the Streets of *Limrick*, after it was delivered up to the Engliſh. Whereupon, taking Acquaintance again with him; by Enquiry, he found that he went about in that Country, getting a poor Livelihood by profeſſing himſelf to be a Fortune-Teller and a Conjurer. So that

thus

thus far we have a pretty Account of *Robert Young*'s Genealogy, down from the Duke of *Lenox* to the Iriſh Conjurer.

From the *Gate-houſe* (as I have already ſaid,) he was removed by the Lord Chief Juſtices Order to *Newgate*: Where, if my Reader, and I my ſelf, were not quite tired with him, I have plenty of Inſtances to prove that he was always the ſame. One I'll give:

During his being Priſoner there, whil'ſt none queſtioned but he was in Holy Orders, he Clandeſtinely Married a Fellow Gaol-Bird of his to a young Heireſs. For which vile Fact, ſo eſteem'd even in *Newgate*, being more ſeverely treated than before, he wrote Captain *Richardſon* a Letter under his own Hand, which I have ſeen; wherein he tries to excuſe himſelf for ſo great a Crime, by an Argument that is ſomewhat ſingular, and may be reckon'd as one of his moſt *Ingenious Shifts*.

It is to this Senſe, *Do not you* (ſays he,) *Noble Captain, allow any Artificer and Handicrafts Man, that you have here in Priſon, to work at his own Trade, to keep himſelf from Starving?*

And

And why then ſhould I be denied to get Bread for me, and my Wife, by making uſe of My Function?

But, to return to that which is more pertinent to my purpoſe, in *Newgate Robert* and *Mary* were kept, till they were Try'd, and Condemn'd, for the Forgeries above-mention'd; as the Records here enſuing will ſhew, though I produce but one a piece for each of them, for Brevities ſake.

London. ff. *Deliber. Gaol. Domin. Regis & Regin. de Newgate tent pro civitat. London. apud Juſtice Hall in le Old Bayly, London. die Mercur. (ſcilt.) 5° decimo die Januarij An. Regni Dom. noſt. Will. & Mar. nunc Regis & Regin. Angliæ, &c. Primo.*

For Cheating Mr. *Kendal* of 20 l. by a Counterfeit Bill of Exchange, by him forged in the Name of Mr. *Clark*.

Robert Young, alias Smith, fin. Cent. & committitur, &c. & ponatur ſtare, in & ſup. Pillor. uno die Cornhil prope Excambium London. & al. die in Cheapſide, London. ab hora undecima ante merid. uſq; hor prim. poſt merid. in utroq; eorund ſeperat. dier. cum Papir. Script. ſupra caput ſu. oſtenſ. offenſ. ejus, & tunc reducatur ad Newgate in ea ſalv. Cuſtod. quouſq; fin. ſu. prædict. ſolverit.

For Cheating Mr. *Shipton* of 200 l. by a Counterfeit Bill of Exchange, in the Name of Mr. *Mallow*.

Mary Young, fin. xx^m & committitur, &c. & ponatur ſtare ſup. ſedile ante & prope Pillor. uno die in Cornhill prope Excambium London. & al. die in Cheapſide London. ab hor. undecima ante merid. uſq; hor. prim. poſt merid. in utroq; eorund. ſeperat. dier. cum papir. ſcript. ſupra Caput ſu oſtenſ. offenſ. ejus: & tunc reducatur ad Newgate in ea ſalv. Cuſtod. quouſq; fin. ſu. ſolverit.

Thus *Robert Young* and his Wife again paſt their well-known Road of the Pillory. But being

being brought back to *Newgate* for want of paying their Fines; to enable them thereto, he fell at laſt upon this damnable Contrivance of an Aſſociation, as the Conſummation of all his Villanies.

I have already told by what means he came to be ſo skilful in Archbiſhop *Sancroft*'s Hand, and Mine; how he got a Pattern whereby to Forge my Lord *Cornbury*'s, his Lordſhip cannot remember. But my Lord *Salisbury*'s, and my Lord *Marleborough*'s he obtain'd partly by the ſame Craft as he did mine: That is, By Writing, to my Lord *Marleborough* under his true Name of *Robert Young*; to my Lord *Salisbury* under the Name of *Robert Yates*, to inquire of the Character of ſome Servants they never had: To which Falſe Letters they alſo unawares return'd True Anſwers, under their own Hands; which he thereupon Falſified.

In the ſame manner he procur'd Sir *Baſil Firebrace*'s Hand, by ſending him a civil Letter, under the feign'd Name of *Robert Yarner*, a Juſtice of Peace at *Marlow* in *Buckinghamſhire*, and earneſtly recommending to him a wild Son of his for an Apprentice; profeſſing he would not ſtick at any Money, if Sir *Baſil* would take him under his Care:

Withal *Desiring an Answer from him under his Hand by the Bearer his Man*; which he had: And thereupon Sir *Basil* was enter'd into the Association.

But lest my Reader should think that the single Framing of one Association was Employment enough in Matters of State, for so fertile a Brain, and so artificial a Hand as *Robert Young*'s, during the whole two Years and four Months that he lay Prisoner in *Newgate*; I have one Story more to tell of him, and then I shall have done: As indeed I well may; for after this Association, and this other Story of the like nature I am going to relate, I think it may justly be concluded, That scarce ever any mortal Man has reached to a deeper pitch of Infernal Wickedness.

The Story is this. Shortly after my being cleared at *Whitehall*, I went to *Lambeth*, to visit my antient most honoured Friend, my Lord Archbishop of *Canterbury*, and to thank him for the very kind Offices he had done me at Court during my Affliction. That being over, I told him, I was going to my Lord *Nottingham*, to request that my two false Witnesses might be brought to Tryal, and undergo the

the Juſtice of the Government. His Grace encouraged me to do ſo, and withal, bid me tell my Lord *Nottingham*, as from himſelf, this Story; which I will ſet down, as near as I can remember, in his own Words. *Near ſix Months ago, about* Chriſtmas *laſt*, ſays my Lord Archbiſhop, *I received a Letter from this* Robert Young *out of* Newgate, *to let me know, There was a pernicious Plot going on againſt their Majeſties, which was laid as deep as Hell; and he had had the good Luck to diſcover it; Deſiring me ſpeedily to acquaint the King with it. At firſt, the Information coming from ſuch a Place, I took little notice of it. But he ſhortly after wrote me other Letters to the ſame purpoſe; and at laſt, ſent me Letters full of Treaſon, pretended to be written by ſome of the greateſt Men in* England. *The Hands I did not know; but then I thought it concerned me, as a Privy Councellor, to acquaint his Majeſty with the whole Matter. I did ſo. The King read over* Young's *Letters to me, and thoſe Treaſonable Ones that he had ſent me; and then his Majeſty very generouſly ſaid*, Really, My Lord, theſe Papers may reſemble ſome of theſe Perſons Hands; but I do not in the leaſt diſtruſt them; I am confident they are

Innocent, and this is a Villany; and therefore I will not have them disturbed upon this Account. *And so*, said my Lord Archbishop, *I carried home my Bundle of Intelligence again, and sealing the Papers, laid them up in my Closet, where they still remain; and I pray tell my Lord* Nottingham, *that when their Majesties shall command, I am ready to produce them, with the very Inscription I put upon them at that same time.*. **Letters and Papers from Robert Young, Who is a very Rogue.**

And here indeed I had resolv'd to give the Rogue over. But when I was just concluding, there happen'd a New Discovery, relating still to my Share in this Business; so very remarkable, that I cannot, without manifest Injury to my Self, and my Reader, deprive him of the Knowledge of it: I mean, *Robert Young*'s fresh Attempt to Suborn one *Holland*, in order to revive the Fallen Credit of his Forg'd Association.

I should be very loth, by what I am going to say, to Foreſtal, or Misreport the King's Evidence against him. But the Reality of this Gross Subornation having been Sworn to at *Hicks's-Hall*, where I my self was an Ear-Witness, as well as many Worthy Gen-

Gentlemen, and great Numbers of other Persons, I know not how it were possible for me to make a Secret of it, if I would. And the Story so much conducing to shew the extreme Madness and Implacable Rage of the Villain, when he was brought to his last Shifts, I think I have great Obligation upon me to make it publick.

Now the Evidence, in this Matter, consisting partly in the Discourse *Young* himself had with *Holland*, to draw him in to be a Perjur'd Witness in this Profligate Cause; and partly in the Instructions *Young* sent him in Writing to Swear by: I will set down, as near as I can, a very Brief, but Faithful Abstract of the Substance of both: It being to Both that *Holland* publickly took his Oath. And to the Truth of the Instructions, being Written in *Young*'s own Hand, Mr. *Aaron Smith* also Swore at the same time; and unquestionably proved it, by comparing that Paper, with a whole Handful of Letters, he had received from *Young* himself out of *Newgate*.

It seems then, that during the long time of *Young*'s being in *Newgate*, he became acquainted with one *Holland*, a Prisoner likewise there; *Young* for Forgery, *Holland* for Debt. Some

Some time after *Blackhead* had Confeſs'd before the Lords of the Council, *Young* ſent for this *Holland* to the Meſſengers Houſe, where he lay confined: And knowing him to be very Poor, and thence judging, by himſelf, that he was the more likely to embrace any Wicked Deſign, broke the Buſineſs to him in this manner:

Mr. Holland, ſays he, *It is moſt certain there is a Helliſh Plot againſt the Government: The Story, you may have heard, of the* Aſſociation, *is true to a Tittle: I ſhould have clearly made it out, had not the Cowardly Rogue* Blackhead *forſaken me, being Brib'd by the Biſhop of* Rocheſter, *and Frighted by ſome Great Men at Court, who are alſo themſelves as deeply engaged in the Deſign. Now if you will come in to Aſſiſt me in the Proof of it, we ſhall be made for ever; I ſhall have a Thouſand Pounds,* (ſo the Lying Knave boaſted,) *and you ſhall have half of it. And I think,* Mr. Holland, 500 l. *will do no hurt to a Man in your Circumſtances.*

By my Faith, you ſay true, Mr. Young, reply'd Holland, *ſuch a Sum would come very ſeaſonably to me at this time. But what Work am I to do for it?*

It ſhall be only your part, anſwer'd Young, *to Swear that you ſaw the Earl of* Salisbury, *the Earl of* Marleborough, *and the Biſhop of* Rocheſter, *Sign the Aſſociation.*

But, ſaid Holland, *How can I make a probable Story of it? Seeing I never ſaw the Aſſociation, I know none of the three Lords you ſpeak of, nor can I imagine where to fix the Place, or Time of Signing it, or any of the other Neceſſary Circumſtances.*

As for all that, ſaid Young, *I will ſend you Inſtructions, by my Wife, of the Particulars you are to Swear to. For*, Mr. Holland, *I would not have you come hither your ſelf often to me. I have here divers Spyes upon me: And beſides, This Damn'd* Blackhead, *who has Deſerted me, lies juſt over Head in this ſame Meſſenger's Houſe.*

But as for the Aſſociation it ſelf, I will now deſcribe you the exact Shape of it. Then calling for a Sheet of Paper, he folded it into the ſame faſhion: *Only*, ſays he, *you muſt remember, That the Aſſociation is Written in great thick Paper.*

Next, he repeated to him the Heads, and Principal Matter of it: Then ſhew'd him in what Order the Names were Subſcrib'd.

Here

Here, ſays he, *is the late Arthbiſhop of* Canterbury's *Hand, uppermoſt towards the Right Side: Next under that, the Biſhop of* Rocheſter's: *Under his, the Lord* Cornbury's: *Over againſt the Biſhop of* Rocheſter's *to the Left, is firſt the Earl* Salisbury's, *then ſtill to the Left, the Earl of* Marleborough's, and ſo of the reſt; pointing to the place of every particular Name very expertly.

I alſo well remember, That, in the Inſtructions, there was a Liſt of ſeveral other Names, that were not in the Original Forg'd Aſſociation; which, no doubt, were put in, towards the framing of more new Falſe Aſſociations; as before I intimated, moſt certainly was his Intention, if this had gain'd Credit.

But for the Perſons, added *Young*, *you muſt get a View of them as ſoon as you can.* And (as far as I can recollect, all that follows was in his Paper of written Inſtructions) *The Earl of* Salisbury, *when in Town, is at his Houſe in the* Strand; *when in the Country at* Hatfield *in* Hartfordſhire *beyond* Barnet. *The Earl of* Marleborough *is ſo well known about* Whitehal *and* St. James's, *that you will eaſily find where he dwells. The Biſhop of* Rocheſter *is to be ſeen either at his Houſe at* Bromley *in* Kent, *or at* Weſtminſter, *where he is Dean.* *And*

And as for the Place, and Time, and Company; You must Swear that you saw these three Lords, on such a day, (mentioning a particular day, which I have forgot) *come to the Lobster the house in* Southwark: *That they came in white Camblet Cloaks, with Crevats about their Necks: That the Sign was, their Inquiring for the Number* THREE: *That then they were conducted up Stairs into a Back-Room: And there, in the Presence of You, and Me, and Captain* Lawe, (I think also he nam'd one or two more) *they Sign'd the Association: Then, delivering it to Captain* Lawe, *they said, Captain, We pray, make haste about to get this Paper Speedily Subscrib'd by the rest, who, you know, are concern'd; And that then these three Lords threw Their Twelve Pence apiece, and so went their ways.*

I know my Reader, upon sight of all this strange Stuff, cannot forbear smiling. Which perhaps it is not decent for me to make him do, so near the end of this Tragedy.

But it is none of my fault. I only, as near as I am able, relate the simple Truth. Most certainly it was sworn that *Holland* Communicated all this to the Secretary of State. And being Examin'd by some Lords of the Coun-

cil, affirm'd it all upon Oath: And I am sure that upon Oath also he repeated it all, before the Justices of the Sessions, and the Grand Jury of *Middlesex*, on the Day that the Bill of Forgery and Subornation of Perjury was found against *Blackhead* and *Young*.

And besides, that, which to me confirms the Truth of *Holland*'s Testimony beyond Contradiction, is, That every Word of the Instructions was undeniably Written by *Young*'s own Hand; which, by this time, I hope my Reader will take me to be a Competent Judge of.

For since I begun my Knowledge of him, on the Thirteenth of *June* last, I have seen so very many Papers of his own Hand-writing, (I mean his True Hand, not his False) that now I may presume to say, I think my self as well skill'd in Knowing His Hand, as he is in Counterfeiting Mine.

I cannot therefore see how he can possibly be excused from ridiculous Folly, as well as shameless Subornation, in this last so very fabul an Intrigue.

I must therefore, upon this Occasion, crave his Leave to apply one certain General Observation to *Robert Young* in particular, *That*

there was never yet a very great Knave, but he proved, ſometime or other, as great a Fool.

I have now, in good earneſt, done with *Robert Young*. But when I reflect on what I have been doing all this while, I am almoſt out of Countenance at it. It vexes me, That whilſt my happy Deliverance might have ſuggeſted to me ſo many better and more uſeful Thoughts, both in regard to the Publick, and my own Private Part in it, I ſhould be ſo long diverted another way, to follow this Impious Wretch, through one Kingdom to another, from Gaol to Gaol, from Pillory to Pillory.

Nor could I have ſubmitted to ſo mean a Task, had not ſome Good and Great Men thought it neceſſary, not ſo much for my own Vindication, much leſs for my own Revenge, the thoughts of which are far below me as a Chriſtian, and a Biſhop; as for the Security of other Innocent Perſons: and that this might be ſome Warning to my Country, in time to come, againſt the like Wicked Forgeries, Subornations, and Falſe Plots.

It is indeed somewhat strange, that when the Laws of *England* are so Watchful, and Jealous (perhaps more than the Laws of any other Kingdom) in Defending the Liberties and Properties of the Subject, from all Injustice, Fraud, and Oppression; yet they may seem not to have been equally Careful, not so much as the Laws of most of our Neighbouring Nations, in providing severely enough against that worst sort of Perjury, which reaches to the taking away of Mens Lives.

For my part, I can Assign no other Rea- Reason of this Defect, but the same for which the *Romans* had for some Ages no Laws against Parricides; that is, That the Ancient Simplicity and Generosity of the *English* Nation did never imagine, any *English* Men could possibly be Guilty of such Diabolical Wickedness, as to turn Accusers for the Sake of Accusing; and in Cold Blood, by Perjury, to Destroy Innocent Men, to whom they were utter Strangers, and who had never in the least provok'd them.

I am inclined to believe, That this was the Cause why our Country has been hitherto Deficient in Laws of this kind, at least since the Conquest. But

But if we consider the different Degrees of the Offences themselves, How can it possibly be thought a Crime of the same Magnitude, to Swear a Man Falsely out of a part, (a small part perhaps) of his Goods and Estate, as to Swear him Falsely out of his Life, his Honour, his very Name, as well as his whole Estate, as in the Case of High Treason? Yet, by all our Laws now in Being (if I am not misinform'd) the Penalties of these greatest of Perjuries, are not much heavier than those which are inflicted for the least.

And what Temptation must this be to Forswearers, in Matters of State especially, when the Reward is like to be considerable, if they carry their Point so far as to have their False Plots believ'd to be Real; and on the other Hand, the Penalties cannot by Law be very grievous, should they be detected of Swearing to Plots most Impudently False? Especially considering, that such Infamous Persons, knowing they are safe from extraordinary Punishment, particularly from Punishment by Death, have usually no great Dread of the Shame, or Pain of the Ordinary Ones, such as Pilloring and the like; as having

perhaps been often inured to them before.

To prove what I say, I need alledge no other Example but this of *Robert Young*. My Reader finds he has stood in the Pillory more than once for several Petty Forgeries: Petty I call them only in comparison to this. And what a mighty Business were it now, if for Contriving the Final Ruin of so many Guiltless Persons, and their Posterity, by the Basest Means, *Robert Young* should be adjudg'd once more to stand in the Pillory?

Or what would it have avail'd Me, or my Family, in this World at least, should I have Died, as Guilty of Treason, by this Villain's False Testimony, if afterwards, upon the Detection of his Perjury (as I am perswaded God would not have suffered so Horrid a Villany to prosper, or remain long undiscover'd,) I say, what great Comfort or Compensation had it been to my Family, and my Friends, if, after my unjust Execution, they had heard that the wicked Author of it had stood once more in the Pillory, and perhaps lost the Tip of his Ear?

Wherefore may it not well become the Prudence of our Lawgivers, upon Occasion

of

of so Notorious an Instance, together with some others within our Memories, to Review, once for all, the Laws now in force against Forgery and Perjury: And then to adjust the distinct Punishments a little more proportionably to the different Guilt, and the several Degrees of these Crimes; for the future, I mean: God forbid I should propose, that any such Law should have a Retrospect, even upon *Blackhead* or *Young*.

But I presume to urge this the rather at this time, because of the common Saying, *That Ill Manners make Good Laws*: that is, (as I understand the Proverb,) They render the making of them to be necessary. And if this be true, perhaps there was never yet any one Age since the *English* were a Nation, when the Ill Manners of False Witnesses, their frequent Subornations, Perjuries, and Forgeries, have more deserv'd to be Restrain'd by some Good New Laws, than this very Age wherein we live.

I could heartily wish so great a Benefit might accrue to the Publick by the happy Discovery of this inhuman Design; so as to deter ill Men from attempting any more such. Then I should think my own Troubles more than

than enough Recompenc'd: I should even rejoice in the extreme Peril, to which I my self was thereby Expo'sd.

But however that shall happen, I am sure, there is another Use of this Signal Providence, which by God's Grace it is in my own Power to make; and if I do not, I ought to be esteem'd as the most Ungrateful of Men to the Heavenly Goodness: that is, if I do not render it the Chief Business of my whole Life, to return some suitable Thanks to Heaven for it.

I hope I may say without Vanity, That perhaps it is hard to meet in some whole Ages, with many Examples wherein the Divine Favour has snatch'd any private Person out of such imminent Danger, with a more visible Hand, than it has done me out of this.

Why may I not be allowed, in all Humility to say thus much? since it is so manifest, That the Destruction or Preservation of Me and Mine did depend upon the Clerk of the Council's turning to the Right Hand, or to the Left, when he enter'd to search my House at *Bromley*.

By God's Mercy and Direction, he turn'd to the Left. There examin'd all Places so curiously

riouſly, as to paſs by no Corner unobſerv'd yet he found nothing on that ſide worthy the Obſervation of one that came on ſuch an Errand.

Whereas had he chanc'd to turn, Chanc'd do I ſay? I cannot believe that any thing fell out by Chance in this whole Buſineſs: but had God permitted him to turn on the Right Hand, the firſt Room he had enter'd, was that very Parlour, wherein was depoſited the Fatal Inſtrument of my Death. Nor could he have miſs'd it, but muſt have immediately lighted upon it, conſidering the punctual Inſtructions he had receiv'd to ſearch all the Chimneys, and the Flower-Pots in them.

And had he once found it, the Writing it ſelf, ſo nearly reſembling my own Hand, and taken in my Dwelling Houſe, had ſoon overwhelm'd me with ſuppoſed Guilt, without any farther need of *Blackhead*'s or *Youngs*' Aſſiſtance.

For in ſo great a Surprize, and Conſciouſneſs of my own Innocency, Whom had I to Accuſe or Suſpect, but only Mr. *Dyve* and Mr. *Knight* themſelves, for having put the Aſſociation

into the ſame Flower-Pot, whence I had ſeen them take it out? And this indeed had been another Aggravation of my Misfortune, That I ſhould have been forc'd to impute ſo vile a Treachery to Perſons as Innocent in this, as I my ſelf was in the Aſſociation.

Moreover, let my Reader but recollect the particular Time when all this happen'd, and I need mention no other Proof, or Circumſtance, of the marvellous Greatneſs of my Danger, and Eſcape.

It was in the beginning of *May* laſt, a Time, when perhaps there was as great a Conſternation, both in Town and Country, as was ever known in *England:* The *Engliſh* Fleet was ſcarce yet out of the River; the *Dutch* for the moſt part at Home; the *French* in the Mouth of the Channel, and only kept back by contrary Winds; a terrible Invaſion hourly expected from *France*; the Army beyond Sea, that ſhould have defended us; a real Plot and Confederacy by many whiſper'd about; by the Common People believ'd; many Perſons of great Quality impriſon'd upon that Suſpicion; all Mens Minds prepar'd to hear of ſome ſudden Riſing, or Diſcovery.

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In such a Critical Time of Publick Terror and Distraction, How very little Evidence would have suffic'd to Ruine any Man, that had been Accus'd with the least probability of Truth? And how then had it been possible for me to have stood the Torrent of Common Fame and Passion against so great a Notoriety of Fact, had that Paper of a Pretended Association been really found in my House?

What Tumult and Rage had been on all sides of me upon such a Discovery! How fitly had such a Story served to inflame the generality of Men against me! How long a time must it have been, before the still Voice of Innocency could be heard!

Would it not have been said, *Can he deny it to be his own Hand? Are not the Hands of the rest well known? Was it not found in his House? In so secret a place there? Who could have laid it there but himself?* This certainly had been the Universal Clamour.

But above all, What a Mischievous Advantage had this given to the Enemies of the Church of *England*, to insult and triumph over it, on my Account? And that in Truth had more sensibly and deeply wounded me, than

than any thing else which could have befallen my Self.

But God prevented all this, by covering (if I may so say) the *Hand-Writing* against me in my Chimney; as long as the finding of it there might have been to my Destruction; and then by suffering my Accusers to fetch it thence, and produce it in such a time, and in such a way, as could only tend to their own Confusion.

To GOD therefore my only Deliverer be the Praise. And as I doubt not but all Good and Innocent Men, for the common sake of Innocency vindicated, will receive this Account of my Deliverance with Kindness and Good Will; so I do most solemnly oblige my Self, and all Mine, to keep the grateful Remembrance of it Perpetual and Sacred.

FINIS.